Video Statement by H. E. U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations at the Reception to mark the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

(New York, 30 January 2017)

- I am delighted to congratulate the UNCDF on the 50th Anniversary of the Fund through this video message.
- Myanmar is a strong supporter of UNCDF and contributing every year to the Fund's core resources. We are one of the LDCs working with UNCDF in the implementation of the international support measures for the LDCs.
- UNCDF has several programmes in Myanmar. Through **MicroLead**, UNCDF funded three market leaders with consolidated business models to start operations in Myanmar.
- And the **Making Access to Finance possible (MAP)** Programme has laid the foundation for the development of the Financial Inclusion Roadmap in Myanmar.
- The financial inclusion Roadmap is then followed by the **Expanding Financial Access** programme to strengthen the financial sector in Myanmar.
- Another significant achievement of the Fund in Myanmar is the initiative of a market development facility which provides local currency loans and technical assistance for promising MFIs. Moreover, UNCDF is working on digital financial services to reach low-income populations, through its Mobile Money for the Poor Programme.
- The first window of the regional **Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations programme (SHIFT)** Challenge Fund has contributed to the enhancement of grassroots people by co-funding to three Myanmar-based organizations to reach 75,000 low-income individuals, specifically women. I am encouraged that the second window namely "Fostering innovative business models for women's financial inclusion" is currently running.
- I am also pleased to note that UNCDF is initiating a regional programme, called **LoTUS,** to facilitate the connectivity of Myanmar to regional production networks. The government and the private sector in Myanmar are participating in this program to secure cross border investments.
- This is an exciting time for the Fund. We consider the Fund highly relevant to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the New Urban Agenda; as well as to the challenges and opportunities LDCs are facing.
- Finally, I would like to convey my best wishes to the UNCDF for further success and Myanmar's renewed commitment to continue working closely with the Fund.
- I thank you.

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