



# MYANMAR

*Check against delivery*

**Statement**

**by**

**Ambassador U Hau Do Suan,**

**Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**At the General Debate of the Second Committee**

**of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York**

**7 October 2015**

**Statement by Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the General Debate of the Second Committee, 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 7 October 2015**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to congratulate you for assuming the Chairmanship of the Second Committee of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of G77 and China, and the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Bangladesh on behalf of ASEAN and LDCs respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Fifteen years ago, we gathered here and committed ourselves to set ambitious Millennium Development Goals and targets. The MDGs had provided a convincing framework to address the dire needs of the world's poorest. It is gratifying to note that 15 years later, more than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty. 2.6 billion people now enjoy improved access to clean drinking water. Child and maternal deaths have been significantly reduced. Millions of lives have been saved by targeted investment in global combat against communicable and acute diseases. More children can go to primary school. Despite all these great achievements, some 800 million people are still living in extreme poverty.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Today, we are pleased that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will complete the unfinished business of the MDGs by incorporating them in its main component of the Sustainable Development Goals. As we embark on the collective journey of sustainable development, collaborative efforts and participation of civil society, multi-stakeholders, academia, and business sector will be of great importance in the process of transition from MDGs to the SDGs. A truly integrated approach is needed to successful implementation of the elaborative 17 SDGs and 169 targets to ensure that no one is left behind.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar welcomes the successful convening of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as the outcome document. We hope that the Action Agenda will serve as crucial instrument to providing adequate financing, technological support and capacity building for the developing countries in their efforts to implementation of the SDGs.

We believe that political commitment, enhanced partnership, strengthening of capacity and provision of adequate means of implementation will be keys to success in realizing ambitious SDGs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The world is facing more frequent and more intensive outbreaks of natural disasters and the impacts triggered by global warming and climate change. Myanmar will continue to work together with the international community for a meaningful, implementable and universal climate agreement. In this connection we would like to echo the position of ASEAN in reiterating the importance of honouring the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in our pursuit for a new climate regime. It is also important to ensure that least developed countries are provided with adequate and additional financial and technological resources to help address the impacts of climate change. We look forward to finalizing such an agreement at the forthcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Many LDCs are still facing difficult challenges to meet the IPoA goals. It is essential for the LDCs to build viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services in order to achieve IPoA goals in timely manner. While expressing our appreciation, we would like to call on our development partners, once again, to fulfill their commitment of enhanced development assistance, trade facilitation and technological transfer to the LDCs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar has been undertaking wide-ranging economic liberalization in tandem with social, political and administrative reforms under the government of President U Thein Sein.

Macro-economic reform and monetary and financial restructuring have made positive impact on the economic development. The exchange rate has been unified under a managed float. The country now has an independent central bank. National budget has become transparent. Unnecessary barriers to business and trade have been removed and legal foundation for foreign investment has been provided. Foreign Investment Law was revised. Essential public services and infrastructures have also been improved. Myanmar has sought OECD's advice and support by undergoing its Policy Review Initiative.

Myanmar is currently implementing a 20-year National Comprehensive Development Plan (2010- 2030). The vision of the plan is to achieve middle-income status by 2030. The development of human capital is primary strategic focus of NCDP for achieving this vision. It is also aimed at aligning national priorities with the sectors that are key drivers for graduation from the LDCs status.



Myanmar has been maintaining a robust economic growth in recent years. The GDP has grown an average 8% in the past four years. Myanmar has also attracted increasing FDI. In 2014, Myanmar received US\$ 8 billion in Foreign Direct Investment, surpassing the target amount of \$4 billion in the government's Long Term Foreign Direct Investment Plan. Foreign exchange earnings is rising, and tourism industry booming, reaching 4.5 million this year, drastic increase from just a little over half a million four years ago. Myanmar is now labeled as Asia's last economic frontier.

Myanmar's socio-economic reform efforts have contributed to achieving progress in social and human development, particularly in poverty and hunger reduction, literacy and enrolment of primary education, eliminating gender disparity in education, reducing infant mortality rate and improving maternal health. In the area of health care, Myanmar is among a few countries where incidence rate of HIV infection among adults has decreased by over 50 per cent in the past decade. We are also making significant progress in the fight against malaria.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar is aiming at graduating from LDCs at an early date. It is feasible if we could maintain this average annual growth rate over the coming years. The Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESRs) launched in 2013 for sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction is a solid platform for our LDC graduation ambition.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar was hit by a devastating natural disaster in late July and August in the wake of Cyclone Koman, affecting 1.5 million people across the country. The damage inflicted by the flood and landslides of torrential rains this year is more intense and widespread than that of the cyclone Nargis seven years ago. The people of Myanmar stood up against the disaster with their remarkable resilience. The Government, the people and civil society are working together to alleviate the sufferings of the flood victims in a swift and effective manner. The international community also have offered rescue and relief assistance.

Despite massive rehabilitation tasks undertaken by the government, more assistance and funds will be needed for the affected people to be able to resume their normal livelihood, and to restore infrastructures in transport, communication, education and healthcare at a later stage. I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the government and people of Myanmar to friendly countries far and near, the United Nations and the international community for their kind assistance to the affected people during this difficult time.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar has made its utmost efforts to meet the MDGs in order to alleviate poverty and economic and social development of its people despite daunting challenges.

I wish to assure you that Myanmar will be working hand in hand with the United Nations and the international community to realizing the SDGs for eradication of poverty, economic development, peace and prosperity and for the protection of our planet earth.

I thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*