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Statement

By

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**Advisor to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
on**

**Agenda Item 23 (a): Groups of Countries in Special Situations:
Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed Countries**

**Before the Second Committee of the
70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
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Statement by Ms. Sann Thit Yee, Advisor to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Agenda Item 23 (a) Groups of Countries in Special Situations: Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries before the Second Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 29 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of ASEAN and Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of LDCs respectively. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted under this agenda item which serve as a valuable basis for our considerations.

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2015 will be remembered as one of the most significant years in the history of the United Nations. This year we have not only celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Organization, but also witnessed successful adoption of the two important documents, namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September. We are also looking forward to the convening of COP 21 in Paris in December. We hope that all these events will serve as the crown achievements of the UN to laying down concrete roadmap for its lofty objectives of poverty eradication, sustainable development and protection of the global environment. We believe that effective implementation of the Addis Abba Action Agenda will lend a valuable support for the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and SDGs.

We are pleased to note that the 2030 Agenda has incorporated some key development challenges and priority of the least developed countries. The time has now come for all of us to embark on the challenging phase of implementation by integrating those goals and targets into national development plans. In this regard, my delegation wishes to stress the importance to take into consideration of the national circumstances, different levels of development and the needs and priorities of countries in special situations, particularly the LDCs in implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

As the LDCs are the most vulnerable countries with diverse needs and structural challenges, enhanced global support will continue to remain essential for the LDCs to overcome these challenges including the implementation of IPoA and the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner.

Despite the success story of a few LDCs being able to graduate from the LDCs status during MDGs time frame, many members are still struggling to overcome 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.

The renewed international commitment is required to provide increased and strengthened support to LDCs to ensure full and effective implementation of the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action. 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.

We hope that the upcoming Mid-term Review of the IPoA to be held in Antalya, Turkey in June next year will provide an important opportunity to take stock of our achievements so far of the Plan of Action, and to launch concrete and specific global initiatives and measures based on the existing Agendas and Plans for sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the second half of the IPoA implementation period coincides with the first five year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there must be strong synergy and coherence between the implementation of the two processes. As the 2030 Development Agenda itself contains a number of ambitious and far-reaching goals and targets, developing countries, especially LDCs, will face additional challenges in their effort to implement the 2030 Agenda in effective and timely manner.

Therefore, we call upon the development partners to enhance their support to the least developed countries to ensure that no one is left behind in our common quest for

elimination of poverty, peace and prosperity and sustainable development. In this regard, it is necessary to prioritize development goals taking into account the national circumstances and priorities and national ownership of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains a primary source of external financing and contributes significantly to LDCs in their effort to achieving the internationally agreed development goals. Therefore, my delegation wishes to join our fellow developing countries in calling development partners to fulfill their ODA commitments by making additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets and to set up efforts to increase their ODA to at least 0.20 per cent of their GNI as ODA to LDCs.

We would like to thank countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of their GNI as ODA and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNI as ODA to LDCs. We also welcome the decision by the European Union which reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI target and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/ GNI to LDCs within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar also would like to add its voice in calling for a renewed dedication of all stakeholders for North-South, South-South and triangular Cooperation for achieving the development goals of the LDCs. Technology transfer is an essential element for the LDCs to strengthening capacity. In this regard, we look forward to the timely operationalization of the Technology Bank by 2017 which will make significant contributions to the transformation of the economies of LDCs through technological leapfrogging.

My delegation also would like to highlight the vulnerability of LDCs to various kinds of shocks particularly those posed by climate change and natural disasters, which can reverse or undermine national development efforts. Therefore, the establishment and operationalization of a “crisis mitigation and resilience building fund for the LDCs” is critically important for the LDCs in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Direct investment, including foreign direct investment, can make important contribution to sustainable development in the developing countries, particularly in the LDCs. However, many least developed countries continue to be largely sidelined by foreign direct investment that could help to diversify their economies despite improvements in their investment climates. Therefore, we welcome the expressed commitment of the international community to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the LDCs in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

We are concerned that many countries including a number of LDCs remain vulnerable to debt crises. The issue of debt and its sustainability is essential for underpinning growth of those countries. So, there is a need to assist those countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by the fact that a growing number of LDCs are making strenuous efforts to meet the aim of the IPoA to halve the number of LDCs by 2020. We recognize that the graduation process of LDCs must be accompanied by effective measures that will sustain development process. With this spirit in mind, Myanmar is currently implementing a 20-year National Comprehensive Development Plan (2010-2030). The vision of the Plan is designed to achieve middle-income status by 2030. It is also aimed at aligning national priorities with sectors that are key drivers for graduation from the LDCs status. Myanmar has established a high-level Committee on graduation headed by the Vice-President and specific subcommittees for each of the graduation criteria. Under the leadership of the Committee, Myanmar is exerting efforts to get graduated from the list of LDCs soonest.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to express our deep appreciations to the United Nations for rendering assistance to our graduation process. We wish to express our special thanks to High Representative of OHRLLS Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya for leading a joint United Nations mission comprising officials from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNDP to Myanmar in December 2014. The joint mission worked with the Government of Myanmar on the preparations

for a strategy for graduation. We are working closely with the relevant UN agencies, particularly with the UN-OHRLLS for the graduation process.

Myanmar has opened up its economy with more liberalized trade and economic policies since 2012. Thanks to its bold economic reform measures, Myanmar has been able to maintain a robust economic development with the average 8 percent GDP growth rate and a steady flow of FDI over the past four years. Myanmar has attracted growing amount of FDI, as it received US\$ 8 billion in FDI last year which surpassed the target amount of US\$ 4 billion in the government's Long Term Foreign Direct Investment Plan.

The prevailing general condition of political and socio-economic developments affords us confidence in our efforts to graduate from the current LDC status. We fully recognize that the primary responsibility for development of Myanmar rests with the Government and the people of Myanmar. At the same time, the favourable external environment and official development assistance by the development partners also plays a complimentary role in the development efforts of LDCs. We would therefore like to call on the United Nations and our development partners for their continued support and assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, we are confident that with our strong national efforts and the renewed and enhanced support from the regional and international community, we will be able to implement the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. We hope that the greater success in meeting the SDGs will contribute to the efforts of many LDCs to reach the IPOA targets.

I thank you.
