



MYANMAR

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**Statement
by
His Excellency U Kyaw Tin
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations
at the
Global Energy Ministerial Dialogue
of the Secretary-General's second annual United Nations
Sustainable Energy for All Forum**

**New York
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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to congratulate you for presiding over this important high-level meeting focusing on achieving the goal of ensuring access to sustainable energy for all.

My delegation wishes to add our voice for strong support on this important initiative of Sustainable energy for All Initiative, which is very important for transitioning developing countries like Myanmar.

Although Myanmar is blessed with abundant hydro power potential and other sources of renewable energy, the country remains one of the lowest electrification rates in the world. This was partly due to lack of technology and financial capitals to exploit the potentials as the country was deprived of international development assistance for decades.

Despite the arduous efforts taken by the Government to enhance its generating capacity in recent years, only one third or 33 percent of the its 50 million population has the luxury of electricity connection. While this rate is higher for the major cities, large parts of rural areas have almost no electricity at all.

Lack of power impedes our drive for expansion of infrastructure projects, delayed new industrial development projects, blocking much needed job opportunities for the people.

We therefore recognized the urgent need to address the issue of power shortage in order to make success in our economic transition. We can never succeed to half the poverty rate, unless we can drastically raise the rate of electrification in the country, as 70 percent of the population live in rural areas with little or no access to grid-based electricity services. The consumption per capital is 160 kWh per annum, exceedingly far below the world average.

In view of this, the Government of Myanmar has made a firm commitment to make every effort to achieve the ambitious goal of universal electricity access by the year 2030. In this endeavours, Myanmar thanks the World Bank Group and its partners for their commitment to provide financial support of one billion dollar to expand electricity generation, transmission and distribution in the country.

To that end, Myanmar is now working together with World Bank to develop and implement a National Electrification Project which calls for 7.2 million new household connections by 2030. It would require more than doubling the current rate of electricity expansion.

In this process, the MOEP and Department of Rural Development, after receipt of the draft national electrification project, has prepared a draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will guide the application of the World Bank's safeguard policies. At the same time, a Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) has also been undertaken to implement the National Electrification Project. The government has made intensive and wide public consultations on these proposed documents to ensure people's participation. The process is going well to move forward with the projects.

My delegation is proud to say that Myanmar is one the first countries that has taken concrete steps to embrace the initiative of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and completed a national action plan to achieve the goal of universal access.

As wood and charcoal make up 76 percent of the total energy in Myanmar, the growth in electrification rate will also contribute to protection of environment. The National Plan envisions expansion of Myanmar's electricity grid at least cost while ensuring that remote areas are not left behind and receive basic electricity services.

The project is designed not only to improve the lives of the population by better lighting and telecommunication, but also to enable income generation opportunities an enhanced productivity. The Plan's prioritized connections for health clinics and schools will also result in great impacts on socio-economic development. This will eventually help to our efforts to reduction of poverty.

We are hopeful that with the commitment of the Government, strong support of the World Bank and donors and the involvement of private sectors, this national electrification plan will find its way to meeting the goal of universal electricity access in an affordable way by 2030. Thank you.