MYANMAR

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Statement

By

Ambassador Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne

Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

at the General Debate of the Second Committee

of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Statement by Ambassador Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 2 October 2017)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to join other speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the work of the Second Committee in this session. You can assure my delegation's full support in discharging your important responsibilities throughout the session.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN, Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs.

Mr. Chair,

Over the past two years, we have dedicated our work to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This 72nd session will be another year of opportunity to translate our commitments into action on our path towards sustainable development.

However, my delegation is concerned by the fact, as clearly stated in the report of the Secretary-General, that while considerable progress has been made in the previous years, progress is uneven across regions and inequalities remain high, and that the Least Developed Countries, of which Myanmar is one, remain far below many of the targets of the SDGs. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020" which again highlights that despite some progress in some LDCs which have met the criteria for graduation, poverty is still widespread among many LDCs.

Mr. Chair,

It is strongly evident that faster and more inclusive progress is needed to accomplish the bold vision articulated in the IPOA and the 2030 Agenda. As we continue to translate our commitments into actions in our quest for sustainable development, my delegation wishes to underscore the following:

First, mindful of the fact that eradicating poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, is the greatest global challenge and the indispensable requirement for sustainable development, my delegation considers it very important that integrated approaches be taken across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this regard, a coherent set of policies and strategies, which can enhance social protection systems, support inclusive and broad-based economic growth, and protect environment, need to be established while taking into consideration the unique needs, priorities and particular social, economic and cultural backgrounds of the countries.

Second, a strong commitment to global partnership is key to the achievement of the SDGs. Global partnership in the forms of private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. In a similar vein, the fulfillment of ODA remains crucial for developing countries, especially the LDCs, to achieve development goals and targets. My delegation is concerned over the considerable decline of ODA in 2016, and therefore call upon all development partners to fulfill the ODA related internationally agreed targets. We are also alarmed by economic repercussions following global declines in commodity prices and the slowdown in world trade.

Science, technology and innovation are the key enablers for sustainable development. In this respect, my delegation welcomes the establishment and the operationalization of Technology Bank for the LDCs. Sufficient donations by development partners will be required for the Bank in the long run.

My delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of the South-South Cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and resources between developing countries. It is therefore critical that we increase our efforts to maximize the potentials of South-South Cooperation towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Third, the success of the 2030 agenda will depend on how we can keep track of the progress made. My delegation fully concurs with the fact that monitoring progress of the SDGs and making informed decisions will necessitate a data revolution, through investment in data and strengthening statistical capacity. My delegation welcomes the adoption of the Global Indicator Framework consisting of the initial set of indicators during the previous General Assembly. Myanmar, in cooperation with UNDP, recently published a report 'Measuring Myanmar's Starting Point for the Sustainable Development Goals' which includes baseline data for 60% of SDG indicators.

Finally, Climate Change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time with its widespread and unprecedented impacts which disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Climate action becomes a necessity to address this looming reality. Being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate induced natural disasters, Myanmar welcomes the landmark Paris agreement to combat climate change. And with that, we deposited the instruments of ratification on the Paris Agreement and also the Doha Amendment of Kyoto Protocol in the beginning of this Session. We are concerned that many LDCs are unable to absorb climate finance to implement the Paris Agreement. More needs to be done to ensure that climate finance is better accessible by LDCs.

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar is committed to the 2030 Agenda and other development goals and targets. Myanmar's 2016 national economic and development policy aims to achieve people-centered, inclusive and sustainable development. It reflects most of the IPoA targets and SDGs including

the enhancement of infrastructure investment, agriculture, private sector, SMEs and in particular, poverty alleviation.

Myanmar continues its efforts towards peace and stability which are fundamental to achieve sustained and equitable development. To achieve our clear goal of peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar, national reconciliation and peace is placed as the top most priority with the aim of establishing a federal democratic union. Two Union Peace Conferences− the first held in August 2016 and the second in May this year− are the major milestones in the peace process and agreements were reached on many issues during the Second Session.

Committed to promote people-centered development, we are investing more in education, healthcare and other infrastructure development. The Financial Inclusion Roadmap (2014-2020), formulated with the assistance of UNCDF and UNDP, is under implementation. The new Myanmar Investment Law has been implemented since April this year which we believe would help attract more foreign investment in order to boost economy and create jobs.

Myanmar welcomes the General Assembly resolution on "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028" adopted at the previous session which gives further impetus for acceleration of our efforts in the implementation of water-related SDGs and targets in a timely, effective and efficient manner. Myanmar is in close cooperation with its development partners to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. I also wish to inform that the Government of Myanmar will host the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit from 11 to 12 December 2017, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF). The Summit will be held under the theme "Water Security for Sustainable Development" with a view to enhancing political commitments of the region to water security, inspiring partnership, innovation and actions, and building climate resilient water-dependent economies on the foundation of water security.

Mr. Chair,

The Second Committee covers a broad range of issues which are very much relevant to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and to the other global development agendas. My delegation is of the view that steadfast and unwavering commitments need to be upheld and then unfolded into real actions especially when we address the concerns and the complexities of the world poorest and most vulnerable group, the LDCs, so as to be in line with our pledge of reaching the furthest behind first. We sincerely hope that the works of the Second Committee will continue to revamp its efforts towards that end.

In concluding, Myanmar reiterates its strong commitment of working with all of you towards our common aspiration of achieving sustainable development.

I thank you.

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