MYANMAR

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Statement
By

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United Nations Conference
to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and
marine resources for Sustainable Development

(New York, 8 June 2017)

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to align my delegation's position to that of G77 and China and the Group of LDCs.

My delegation would like to congratulate the Governments of Fiji and Sweden for being elected as Co-Presidents to this important conference.

We would also like to commend the efforts of Singapore and Portugal in the capacity of co-facilitators to produce the political outcome document; Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action.

Excellencies,

Human well being and livelihoods significantly rely on oceans, seas and coastal areas that constitute an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and contribute greatly to sustainable development.

In this regard, we recognize the action-oriented vision of this meeting, with emphasis on enhancing transparency, accountability and voluntary commitments of member states to take timely action in saving the oceans and seas that cover more than two-thirds of the Earth's surface and provide 97 percent of the water on Earth.

The implementation of sustainable development goal 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable develop ent is one of the most crucial, cross cutting, inclusive in nature and indispensable for our combined efforts and potential to achieve the 2030 Agenda of SDGs, with our objective of leaving no one behind.

In such context, my delegation appreciates and acknowledges the elements of the 7 partnership dialogues. We hope that these dialogues will provide practical benefits through exchange of knowledge and good practices in addressing our common and major challenges such as conservation, bio diversity, pollution, acidification, sustaining fish stock and rising sea level.

Excellencies,

As mentioned in the "Future We Want" outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and it's implementing agreements have been serving as legal framework for the sustainability of oceans and seas. In this perspective, Myanmar will continue to keep faith and respect on UNCLOS. We expect that established processes and relevant

meetings in the context of UNCLOS should assess the momentum of our implementation on SDG 14.

In view of conserving and sustaining the oceans and seas, Myanmar commends the important work of inter-governmental bodies like International Seabed Authority that regulates and establishes legal provisions for mineral exploration and codes for exploitation activities in the international seabed areas and in this spirit, we will continue to support the Authority.

We welcomed the General Assembly resolution 69/292 and anticipate fruitful outcomes from the forth-coming intergovernmental conference on international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Excellencies,

It is a fact that SDG 14 is essential and needs timely action. In view of its ambitious as well as complex nature, my delegation is pleased that the Call for Action document recognized the challenges and constraints faced by developing countries, particularly the LDCs and the SIDs in implementing SDGS 14. My delegation wishes to highlight our expectation to seek support and assistance on required resources, technology transfer and capacity building through building multi stakeholder partnerships and partnership with financial and technological institutions. Myanmar welcomes that the document underscores the importance of promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies particularly for the SIDS and LDCs by mobilizing means of development in line with the 2030 SDG Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Plan on Financing for Development and Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs and other relevant outcomes.

Excellencies,

The fishery sector, particularly small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, are very important for Myanmar's food security. It is also a means of poverty alleviation. Fish accounts for half of nutritious food consumption for Myanmar people. In view of this, Myanmar's priority in fishery policy is to attain sustainability of fish stock and develop capacity in addressing issues of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

Our principles, goals and actions regarding with fisheries and aquaculture issues are in line with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) which are legally binding instruments, based on internationally accepted principles and guidance towards sustainable fisheries. Myanmar is also a state party to the

Agreement on Port States' Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to underscore the importance played by the Paris Climate Agreement that is largely pertinent to the accomplishment of SDGS 14. Myanmar is in the process of ratifying the Agreement to demonstrate its commitment. We would like to underscore the importance of inclusive participation of the Agreement to realize our efforts in tackling global warming, gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

I thank you.

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