MYANMAR

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Statement

by

Mr. Htin Linn Maung, Advisor to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Agenda Item 19: Sustainable Development at the Second Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

(10 October 2017)

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Statement by Mr. Htin Linn Maung, Advisor of the Myanmar Delegation under Agenda Item 20: "Sustainable Development" at the Second Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 10 October 2017)

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements made by Ecuador, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Bangladesh, on behalf of LDCs; and the Philippines, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted under this agenda item.

SDGs

Mr. Chairman,

We all witnessed some progress within these two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, we still have a long way to reaching our goal of eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind. The task ahead is harder as we are overcoming daunting challenges of sluggish economy, downward ODA trends, unprecedented rate and scale of natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the outcome of 2017 High-level Political Forum which is the central platform for reviewing progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. Myanmar attaches great importance to the effective implementation of SDGs as it plays a significant role in assisting the national endeavours for socio-economic development in the developing countries. (Since the adoption of SDG, Myanmar is striving to develop the National Comprehensive Development Plan, Annual and Five Year Medium term strategic plan for region-wise and sector-wise, making them to be in line with SDGs. As the national

focal point, the Myanmar Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has already engaged with the assessment on national statistical system by setting up SDG indicators.)

My delegation is of the view that availability of funding is essential for effective implementation of the SDGs. We would therefore like to voice our support to many other developing countries in urging the development partners to maintain and substantially increase their voluntary contribution. Myanmar is committed to working with all partners to ensuring of the international assistance brings maximum benefit to the people. (Myanmar is now developing Development Assistance Policy to ensure comprehensive policy guidance for the effectiveness of development assistance. Moreover, Myanmar and the UN Country Team in Myanmar are jointly formulating the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to set out overall cooperation between Myanmar and the UN.)

Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Chairman,

People, mostly the poor and most vulnerable, in the world suffer frequently from disasters, triggered by natural hazards such as floods, tropical cyclones, droughts, landslides and earthquakes.

Myanmar has a long coastline and several rivers across the country and is prone to natural disaster. Lately, because of the climate change, we experience floods every year. Therefore, the government of Myanmar places the disaster risk reduction as a high priority one. At the national level, drawing on the lessons learnt from the past and the new aspects of DRR, Myanmar's Disaster Management Law and its Rules were promulgated in 2013 and 2015, respectively. In accordance with the Law, the National Disaster Management Committee, chaired by a Vice President was established (and the Committee is taking an active role in disaster preventive and preparedness activities as well as disaster relief and responses.)

(Myanmar is also actively participating in the global efforts of addressing the disaster risks. Participation of H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the *3rd UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disaster* in August 2017 demonstrates Myanmar's strong commitment to this issue.)

I am pleased to inform this august Committee that the Government of Myanmar will host, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit from 11 to 12 December this year. The outcome of the Summit will be put forward to the 8th World Water Forum to be held in Brazil early next year.

Energy

Mr. Chairman,

The importance of energy in our development agenda can hardly be overemphasized. Although most of the developing countries in the world are blessed with abundant hydropower potential and other sources of renewable energy, access to electricity by the majority of the people is still limited. We therefore recognize the urgent need to address the issue of power shortage in order to make our economy more vibrant and developed. (Providing access to energy could create job opportunities. Hence, the main focus of the government now is development of infrastructure and electrification.)

Agriculture

Mr. Chairman,

Agriculture is the mainstay of economy of many of us. The agricultural sector highly dominates the Myanmar's economy contributing to 38 % of the GDP and 60% of the work force. (It further contributes to sustainable development in terms of food security and nutrition.)

Current climate change has serious effect on agricultural development. (Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change and degradation of ecosystem.) To address it effectively, Myanmar is formulating the National Environmental Conservation Policy and the National Climate Change Policy. (At the same time, in accordance with its international commitments, Myanmar is actively participating in the global efforts to mitigate the climate change.)

Myanmar welcomes adoption of the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and ratified it during the current session of the General Assembly. Moreover, Myanmar acceded to the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during the current Session. The ratification and accession reflect our firm commitment to the environmental conservation and the sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates that Myanmar is committed and determined to continue effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and stands ready to work closely with the international community to ensure that no one is left behind.

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