MYANMAR

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Statement

by

Ms. Su Nandar Hlaing, Advisor to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Agenda Item 25: Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition at the Second Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

16 October 2017

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chair,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered by Ecuador, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs. Myanmar also aligns with the statement on behalf of ASEAN.

My delegation appreciates the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report providing updates on global efforts to achieve the internationally agreed goals on agriculture development, food security and nutrition which draws the very attention to that fact that by the current trends, the world is not on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation shares its deep concern that, according to FAO, some 815 million people suffered from hunger in 2016 yet more and more adults and children are becoming obese in both the developed and developing worlds.

My delegation believes that promoting sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices will be necessary in order to address hunger and malnutrition. Rural development is equally important as rural areas have vast potential for economic growth pegged to food production and related sectors. We also recognize the key inter-linkages among achieving food security and nutrition, ensuring healthy lifestyles, supporting sustainable agriculture and food systems and tackling climate change among others in striving for the success of SDG2.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Myanmar is making every effort to meet these challenges.

Agriculture is the heart of Myanmar's economy. It contributes about one third of GDP. Seventy percent of the total population, residing in rural areas, mainly depends on farmland and forests for their livelihoods. As such, the

sector is one of the driving forces for poverty eradication, rural development and food security of the country.

With this, the government has embarked on the comprehensive reform in the agricultural sector and rural development.

Myanmar's Agriculture Policy envisions an inclusive, competitive, food and nutrition secured and sustainable agricultural system contributing to the socio-economic well-being of farmers and rural people and further development of the national economy.

Myanmar agricultural development strategy has also been developed with the assistance of Asia Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). The strategy will enhance cooperation between private and public sectors and the farmers to boost production and attain market shares.

With a coastline of 3.000 km and inland water areas covering 3.3 million ha, the Myanmar fish sector provides an enormous potential for economic growth and development. In this regard, the Government has developed policies to effectively manage protection and preservation of fisheries habitat and resources.

Rural development is a key priority for the overall development of Myanmar. In this regard, Rural Development Strategic Framework was laid down to ensure sustainable rural development and inclusion of all stakeholders in rural development activities. National Strategy for Rural Roads and Access and Investment Plan and Rural Water Supply Strategy and Investment Plan have also been developed to meet the basic requirements of the rural people.

As of now, only half of the villages in Myanmar have access to electricity. Affirming the importance of rural electrification to the sustained development of the country, we adopted the Myanmar National Electrification Plan (NEP), funded by the World Bank and other partners, which aims to achieve 100 percent electrification by 2030.

Earlier this year, our State Counsellor launched a national government initiative on nutrition. Significant results have also been achieved on nutrition in cooperation with UN funds and programmes and other relevant partners.

Climate change and subsequent extreme weather events have adverse impact on livelihoods and food security. Myanmar is one of most vulnerable spots to natural disasters, particularly cyclones and subsequent floods and landslides which lead to the destruction of livelihoods, crops and other food sources.

The most devastating disaster in recent history of Myanmar was Cyclone Nargis in 2008. It claimed more than one hundred and forty thousand lives, affected 2.4 million populations and caused economic loss of 4.5 trillion kyats (which is about 4.5 billion US dollars). LDCs are hit the hardest with the occurrence of natural disasters due to their limited capacities. Therefore, it is vital to provide assistance in terms of finance, technology and capacity-building to LDCs in their efforts to combat climate change and to achieving sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar remains committed to promoting agricultural sector and achieving food security and nutrition while reiterating the importance of global partnerships in order to achieve the sustainable development goals. Myanmar is working with regional and international partners in this regard. Finally, Myanmar wishes to express its appreciation towards the relevant partners and international community including the United Nations system for their kind assistance in joining our fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

I thank you.

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