MYANMAR

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Statement by

Ambassador Hmway Hmway Khyne,

Deputy Permanent Representative

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations,

at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the

74th Session of United Nations General Assembly

New York, 8 October 2019

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

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee. My delegation has full confidence that your wisdom and leadership will help facilitate reaching consensus on most of the issues which require urgent attention. Please rest assured of our delegation's fullest cooperation and support during the deliberations. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to congratulate other members of the bureau for their well deserved elections.

Our delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by distinguished representatives of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Thailand on behalf of ASEAN and Malawi on behalf of LDCs respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

As we start to consider issues of the global economy, its outlook is far from being satisfactory. We have been experiencing an unusually trade tensions among the largest economies that lead to uncertainty and risk of recession. According to the World Economic Outlook Report in April 2019, global economic growth is now projected to slow from 3.6 percent in 2018 to 3.3 percent in 2019. The glimmer of hope for recovery has often marred uncertainty of the unfolding global events. If we proceed at this pace, our hope for realization of Sustainable Development Goals remains elusive.

Mr. Chairman,

Our world today faces a wide array of interrelated challenges, such as terrorism, transnational crimes, human and drug trafficking, climate change, environmental degradation, food insecurity, natural disasters and pandemic diseases.

Despite progress at global level, we still confront the formidable challenge of poverty. This is more so for the least developed countries in view of their deep structural impediments to economic growth and traditional challenges of underdevelopment and low levels of human development index. We must forge collaborative partnership to address them in an effective manner.

Mr. Chairman,

We have only 11 years away from achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although we have made progress in some areas, there is still much remains to be done for the attainment of SDGs targets.

Particularly, we face a critical challenge in funding the SDGs by accumulating every year an estimated 2.5 to 3 million USD of funding gap. We recognize the importance of the international finance for development process and achievement of 2030 Agenda. While ODA remains crucial for sustainable development, we have yet to see substantial increases in the ODA and drastic reduction in the debt of the developing countries. At the same time, foreign direct investments are dwindling. The fulfillment of commitments on financing, trade, debt and other issues addressed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical. It is important that we should reinvigorate Addis Ababa spirit and urge developed countries to fulfill their commitments made at various UN conferences and Summits to help the developing countries.

We must also rebuild our trust in the World Trade Organization for it to become an open, rule-based multilateral trading system that is responsive to the needs and concerns of developing countries particularly LDCs. We call upon the members of WTO to fully implement all LDC specific provisions contained in the existing World Trade Organization agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

This year is a remarkable year not only for United Nations but also for global community by holding the first ever important gatherings of the world leaders such as Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Climate Action Summit and High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage. Renewed political commitments reached at those Meetings will strengthen and facilitate our cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We welcome the Political Declaration adopted by First SDG Summit under the auspices of the General Assembly which provides an opportunity to reflect the achievements we have made and the challenges we face in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through declaration, world leaders have committed to accelerate their common efforts now and in the coming decade to fulfill the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that each country faces unique challenges in responding to the universally applicable SDGs. Myanmar is a country with opportunities and challenges. Drawing lessons from the post-independence history of the country replete with the armed insurrections by the ethnic groups, we strongly believe that peace and stability are most crucial for achieving development. Therefore, the Government of Myanmar has placed peace and national reconciliation as top priority. We have successfully convened three sessions of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong to reach agreement on the fundamental principles for democratic federal union.

To bring peace and prosperity to the nation is the need to ensure equitable development in the economic, social and environmental spheres. With its strategic location and rich human and natural resources, Myanmar has vast economic potential. The Government of Myanmar has developed Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP (2018-2030) in line with all SDGs targets. Guided by MSDP, the government has begun a series of reforms to remove economic distortions, such as reviewing current trade policy, adoption of the new Myanmar Companies Law, opening of the insurance sector and wholesale and retail markets to foreign players, services sector liberalization, and loosening restrictions on foreign bank lending.

With those reforms, Myanmar has experienced rapid growth in recent years and become one of the region's fastest growing economies. In the 2018 Triennial Review of Committee of Development Policy, Myanmar has met all LDC graduation criteria for the first time in the history.

Mr. Chairman,

The adverse effects of climate change have disproportionately affected the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society are the ones hit hardest by such effects.

Myanmar is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, exposed to multiple hazards, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and droughts. Recently a torrential rainfall caused landslides and flash floods resulting havoc in several states and regions in Myanmar.

Myanmar firmly believes that the **Climate Action Summit** will be a stepping stone to step-up ambitious upgraded NDC commitments with the target of net zero emissions by 2050 that will help us keep the 1.5C global temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

Acknowledging these challenges, Myanmar has made significant progress to equip itself with the institutional and policy instruments required to address climate change at national level. Myanmar has formulated and adopted Myanmar Climate Change Policy (MCCP) and National Environmental Policy in June 2019. Myanmar, in its commitment to implement the Paris Agreement, is in the process of revising its NDC with ambitious quantified targets.

As today's climate problems cannot be resolved with individual country's efforts alone, international cooperation within a solid framework is critical to addressing climate threats we confront.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully recognize the increased contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the effective implementation of global agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We would like to congratulate the Government of Argentina for the successful hosting of BAPA+40.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the ambitious reform of the UN Development System initiated by the Secretary-General to build, promote, and strengthen the capacity of developing countries in their efforts to address long-term sustainable development at the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

Much works are expected to be done in our committee this year. We should assume greater responsibility in building momentum between now and 2030. The agenda items that we will be dealing in our committee are all paramount, and hence the outcomes of our negotiations will contribute enormously to reach goals and targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.

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