MYANMAR

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Statement by Ms. Aye Myat Myat Myo, Adviser of the Myanmar Delegation to the 74th Session of United Nations General Assembly on Agenda Item 16: Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development
(New York, 18 October 2018)

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered by distinguished representatives of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN and Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs respectively.

We thank the Secretary-General for his substantive and comprehensive report on this agenda item. The report mentioned that access to internet grows rapidly but remains uneven, with lower level of usage in least developed countries. We concur with the report of the Secretary-General. Much remains to be done to address gaps in access and usage between countries and communities.

Mr. Chair,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the information and communications plays a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality, and in accelerating human progress and social development. ICTs contribute to economic development by providing new business ventures, promoting financial inclusion and creating job opportunities. It is undeniable that the development of ICTs brings about the socio-economic development of the people.

However, development of ICTs is viewed as a double-edged sword which also poses new challenges to our societies. Cyber security is a major threat for governments and policy makers. In order to maximize the benefits and address the pitfalls of ICTs, it is imperative to take the appropriate policy and coordinated strategies at all level.

Mr. Chair,

Let me also highlight the efforts of Myanmar to achieve the 2030 Agenda through ICTs sector. Recognizing the importance of Information and Communication Technologies that can catalyse the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, the Government of Myanmar has formulated a policy framework for the development of the telecommunication/ ICT industry. Significant progress has been achieved in making

the telecom services available to the public with affordable prices across the countries within a short period of time.

Currently, the mobile sector has reached over 126% Mobile Penetration (SIM Card Penetration), over 95% total population coverage. We have made noticeable improvement in both affordability and quality of service though late comer in the digital front enjoying the advantage of leap-frogging from analog system to 4 G network.

Mr. Chair,

In order to effectively implement the digital transformation process, Digital Economy Development Committee (DEDC) has been established in 2017.Guided by the committee, progress has been made in enabling digital economy and multi-sectorial digital transformation in the country. Myanmar is also preparing to launch Myanmar Communications Commission (MCC) as a more liberalized and independent regulatory body. To be more responsive and accountable, Myanmar Communication Commission Law has been formulated. To address the cyber threat, cyber legal framework and a comprehensive Cyber Law are being drafted with the assistance of World Bank.

Recently, Myanmar Satellite-2 was launched into space which will provide faster connectivity and high-speed rates not only for mobile internet but also for other communication networks across the country.

Mr. Chair,

The advancement and innovation in information and communications technology offer a huge potential for developing countries, and more so for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). **First,** technology can be used through commerce to generate money and capital income. **Secondly,** updated ICTs improve the quality of life of through creating employment opportunities, improve access to financial inclusion for the poor and support healthcare services. **Lastly,** ICT allows for easier communication between rural and urban areas which will narrow down the gap gradually.

Myanmar, as a LDCs country, welcome the establishment of the Technology Bank for the LDCs which help promotes the integration of LDCs into the global knowledge-based economy.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion I would like to reiterate Myanmar's commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society that can contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.