MYANMAR

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Statement by Ms. Su Nandar Hlaing, Advisor of the Myanmar Delegation under Agenda Item 22: "Eradication of Poverty" at the Second Committee of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 16 October 2019)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by distinguished representatives of Palestine on behalf of Group of 77 and China; Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN and Malawi on behalf of LDCs respectively.

We thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports under this Agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the significant progress being achieved in poverty reduction in global scale, the world is not on track to achieving the target of ending poverty by 2030. According to the Report of the Secretary General, an estimated 145.1 million people are still in poverty due to rising inequality. Global hunger is increasing and that affected 821.6 million people in 2018. About 172 million people were unemployed and 262 million children and young people were out of school in 2017. These figures prove that accelerated and concrete actions are urgently needed to address the multidimensional nature of poverty.

My delegation reaffirms that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In this regard, Myanmar is committed to implement the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027).

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has been making tremendous efforts to eliminate poverty throughout the country, with comprehensive strategies that go further than simply stimulating economic growth. According to the 2017 Myanmar living conditions Survey (MLCS), the proportion of people living below the national poverty line declined from 48.2 percent in 2005 to 24.8 percent in 2017.

The majority of Myanmar people are living in rural areas and therefore, sustainable rural development is vital to all-inclusive economic and social development of the country. Since 2011, the Government of Myanmar has placed the rural development as a priority task of reducing poverty. Many initiatives have been undertaken to develop the agricultural productivity

and to enhance access to primary health care, water and sanitation, electricity, education, basic infrastructure and other essential services. In addition, the Government is implementing a number of rural development projects to improve the socio-economic life of rural people and to narrow down the development gap between urban and rural areas.

Through Community Driven Development Projects, more than 7 million people living in remote areas have benefitted from improved community infrastructure such as bridges, roads, clinics and schools. 1.2 million people have new access to electricity on account of National Electrification Project. The Government is also giving emphasis to microfinance services for rural people besides fiscal and tax system reforms and monetary reforms.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has been undertaking a number of reforms that are focusing on updating the regulatory and legal environment aimed at developing a market-based economy which targets inclusive economic growth. Rapid economic growth contributes to significant reduction in poverty. Myanmar has experienced rapid growth in recent years, becoming one of the region's fastest growing economies with an annual growth rate of 6.5% in 2018-2019. Myanmar's economic growth rate is estimated to reach 6.8% in 2020, which is one of the highest growth rates in the world.

Financial inclusion supports inclusive growth, economic development, and financial deepening. More specifically, it expands poor people's access to financial services, increasing their economic opportunities and improving their lives. Recognizing the positive impact of financial inclusion on growth and poverty reduction, efforts are being made to increase the rate of financial inclusion in Myanmar in line with Myanmar financial Inclusion Roadmap (2014-2020).

Private Sector participating is imperative to strengthening the economies in developing countries, creating job opportunities and even solving global problems. Without private sector incorporation, we will remain far from achieving Goal Number 1 of the 2030 Agenda and the rest. We, therefore, stress the need to enhance the participation of private sector in the global efforts to end poverty.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar is committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with the objective of ensuring equitable development in economic, social and environment spheres. In 2018, the Government has adopted a comprehensive, forward looking, social, economic and environmental policy reform agenda, Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP)(2018-2030). Towards achieving genuine, inclusive and transformational economic growth, the Government has resolved to pursue the integrated set of Goals, Strategies and Action Plans by MSDP. Accordingly, the Government is implementing the Action Plans of MSDP, and the National Indicators Framework for the Monitoring and Evaluation has been established to measure the implementation process.

Human resources development is essential for economic, social and environmental development as well as for the efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Recognizing the importance of quality education and its role in creating sustainable development, the Government of Myanmar has been implementing a comprehensive and evidence-based roadmap, the National Education Strategic Plan (2016-2021), to improve the quality of education.

Through systematic medium and long term MSDP's strategies implementation, Myanmar is committed to improve equitable access to high quality lifelong educational opportunities, strengthen health services systems, extend social protection services, increase secure access to food and protect the rights and harness the productivity of all. Developing countries require capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer from the development partners, private sector and the international community in implementing the national human resources development strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

Advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls make an important contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. We believe that it is imperative to promote the equal and full participation of women in the economy and equal access to decision-making processes and leadership towards enhancing the socio-economic development, inclusive growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Against this backdrop, the Government is according high priority to the women economic empowerment and striving for a more systematic inclusion of women as economic actors within the framework of Myanmar's national development policies and plans. Myanmar has been implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022) to improve the status of women and to enable them to fully enjoy their rights.

Mr. Chairman,

While recognizing the important role of effective multilateralism and global partnerships, Myanmar reaffirms its commitment to working closely and constructively with all development partners, private sector, UN agencies and international community in addressing the overarching challenges of poverty to realize the ambition of leaving no one behind.

Thank you.