



MYANMAR

**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to United Nations at the first part of the Fifth
United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

(New York, 17 March 2022)

Mdm President,

At the outset, I thank you, Madam President and the State of Qatar and the United Nations for organizing this Conference, the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

We congratulate the State of Qatar for assuming the Presidency of this Conference.

Myanmar welcomes the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In this regard, I wish to commend the co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, Ambassador Rabab Fatima of Bangladesh and Ambassador Bob Rae of Canada for their leadership and members of the Preparatory Committee and the UN Secretariat, OHRLLS for their contribution.

Mdm President,

According to the 2018 report of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Myanmar met all three criteria for the first time to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status since it was listed as a LDC in 1987. Despite the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Myanmar's economy in 2020, the elected government had been able to maintain its growth while protecting human lives with the appropriate socio-economic relief policies. Therefore, Myanmar was on the right track to qualify for graduation from the list of least developed countries prior to the military coup in February 2021.

This illegal military coup halted the civilian government's democratic transition efforts and created a turmoil and heartbreaking situation in our country, Myanmar.

UNDP estimates that sadly by early 2022, up to 25 million people, almost half of Myanmar's population, will be living below the national poverty line. The World Bank has expected Myanmar's economy will shrink by about 18 percent due to the effects of the Coronavirus and the political instability resulting from the coup.

The people of Myanmar have been facing horrific suffering resulted from the atrocities and crimes against humanity committed by the military. Since the military coup, over 1679 people were brutally killed and ten of thousands were arrested. Some became victims of torture to death. Our people are encountering sharp rise in economic inequality and extreme poverty.

Nevertheless, the people of Myanmar are resolute and perseverence to end the military dictatorship and to restore democracy in Myanmar as well as to double efforts for development of our country. At the same time, on behalf of the people of Myanmar, I wish to appeal the international community to do more for helping us in our efforts for ending the military dictatorship and restoring democracy and making all rounding developments in Myanmar

Mdm President,

As a LDC, Myanmar supports the just adopted Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and looks forward to effective implementation of the Programme in a timely manner.

I thank you.
