

**STATEMENT BY H.E U SET AUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF PLANNING,
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY, THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR,
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)
NEW YORK, 17 SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ministers,
High Representative for LDCs,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a great pleasure for me to have an opportunity to participate in this important Meeting alongside the UNGA. Allow me to congratulate Mr. Chairman for your effective leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to recall that this is the last year for the implementation of the IPoA which coincides with the occurrence of this COVID-19 pandemic. Our public health, socio-economic situation and national economy has seriously taken a hit, in light of COVID-19, along with most other LDCs that are suffering as a result of these unprecedented circumstances, impacting-us at all fronts of our global economy, environment and society.

Realizing that significant gaps persist in IPoA, a new ten-year plan of action, which will be adopted at the LDC Fifth Ministerial Conference, will be more effective for the implementation of the global agenda and the remaining tasks of IPoA. I also wish to inform that Myanmar is preparing to submit a IPoA Country report, providing comprehensive information and analysis on recent progress. Nonetheless, we still have some gaps in certain areas that can be improved.

Mr. Chairman,

I'd also like to acknowledge and show appreciation for the Group of LDCs' effort in recalling the statement of "Burgeoning challenges and a global stimulus package for LDCs". This initiative supports granting debt-service suspension to the poorest countries, resultant of pooling resources on fighting this pandemic and safeguarding the lives and wellbeing of our people by increasing expenditure on social, health and productivity development. I'd like to acknowledge from over here the generous support and assistance provided by the international organizations and development partners to the LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the April of this year, Myanmar has launched the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) aiming to mitigate the inevitable economic impact imposed by this pandemic. The action plans in the CERP cover a broad range of fiscal measures, in collaboration with tactical humanitarian policy responses.

Additionally, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is a long-term developmental strategy mapping out sectoral, subnational, regional commitments and international sustainable development agendas, considering cross sector issues. Our democratic government with principles of inclusivity endeavours to implement this development strategy by establishing a project bank database- a web-based platform designed to highlight investment projects, with the purpose of being an open, interactive and market driven development.

The efforts of the government on the reformation of the current political and socio-economic climate convinced us to fulfil the eligibility criteria for the first time in 2018. Myanmar has gone through the triennial reviews as-one-of-the-countries on the LDC list produced by the CDP. We realize that the UNCTAD has prepared a vulnerability profile and the UN DESA has produced an ex-ante impact

assessment. Hence, we endeavour to make a smooth transition with the support of the UN system and in cooperation with our development and trading partners.

Mr. Chairman,

Our graduation review process coincided with an extreme widespread disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we'd like for the reviews to consider the impact, in order to improve the quality of graduates from among the LDCs.

The ministerial declaration we will be adopting captures in more detail the issues of our common concerns, along with those pertaining to the current pandemic. The support measures, substantial and differential treatment should be extended for a certain period, in order to address the smooth transition and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Myanmar's commitment to speed up the momentum in pursuing sustainable development in close collaboration with the international community. With this, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Chairman and conclude my statement.