

Statement by the Delegate of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the  
Asia- Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

( 20 May 2014, Pattaya)

Chair, Vice- Chairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am really honored to take part in this important Forum which is timely and appropriate to exchange views on fostering sustainable development in our region. I would like to thank the Royal Thai Government and ESCAP for their hospitality and arrangements to this Forum.

Taking this opportunity, allow me to share briefly our endeavors to achieve sustainable development. In doing so, the government of Myanmar has adopted the Framework on Economic and Social Reform –FESR with a people-centered approach which is an essential policy tool of the government to realize both the short-term and long-term objectives on economic and social priorities in Myanmar. It also serves as a required reference for various entities of government to develop more detailed sectoral and regional plans. The progress that we have achieved up to now provides our society with a well-functioning national economic system.

Moreover, we have achieved some progress toward achieving its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have made progress in areas such as poverty reduction, food poverty incidence, under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), and sanitation. However, there is room for further improvement to improve health-related targets aside from the under-5 mortality rate and the maternal mortality ratio.

To build a sustainable, equitable and prosperous future, we are of the view that we should precede the ways for wealth accumulation, the ways we distribute the benefits of growth and the ways for systematic use of resources. Substantial human capital investments are required in education, healthcare and social protection. Young people, in particular, need access to basic education, entrepreneurial skills, vocational training and higher education. All of which have crucial roles to play in ensuring equitable access to jobs, and are essential to ensuring that growth is maintained over the long term.

We recognize that economic growth and job creation can be achieved by fostering private initiatives, technological innovation, and investments, both domestic and foreign, maximizing the benefits of an increasingly integrated world. On the other hand, we attach the importance of environmental conservation. We commend the process of changing

pathway to sustainable development through low carbon economy and green technologies. Green economy contributes to eradicating poverty as to enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's Ecosystems.

Last but not the least, I would like to stress that we should prioritize in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be integrated into the UN post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.