

**Country Statement Delivered by
H.E. Mr. Zin Yaw
Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
at the ESCAP 70th Session of the Commission
Bangkok, Thailand
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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure and honour for me to deliver a country statement at the 70th Session of ESCAP.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to congratulate Dr. Shamshad Akhtar for your assumption of office, as Executive Secretary of ESCAP. I also congratulate Mr. Chairman for being elected as chairman of this session.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and ESCAP for the excellent preparation and hospitality extended to our delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to briefly touch upon our Government's reforms.

The first stage of reforms is political reform and national reconciliation and now we can see significant and fruitful outcomes of peace and mutual understanding among the national ethnic groups.

The second stage is economic and social reforms. In compliance with its economic and political changes, the government has adopted four economic policy objectives; namely, sustaining agriculture development towards industrialization and all-round development, balanced and proportionate growth among states and regions, inclusive growth for entire population and quality of statistics and statistical system.

The third stage is public administrative reform which would pave the way for ensuring the good governance and clean government. As part of efforts for this, an Action Committee was formed in January 2013 to fight against corruption and bribery in government organization.

As forth stage, the government is focusing its attention on private sector development reforms in order to strengthen entrepreneurship and promote private sector participation in the national development agenda. At this stage, the Government is placing great emphasis on improving the institutional infrastructure and regulatory framework in order to facilitate business, trade and investment. As a result, private sector credit maintained a rapid growth pace of 46% in FY 2013 with the rapid increase in new business registrations.

Mr. Chairman

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly touch on the theme topic, Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity. As you know that the Asia Pacific Region with its dynamic economy and rich cultural diversity is growing rapidly in significance and is set to play a critical and important role in the world as the 21st Century unfolds.

The South East Asian Sub-region has witnessed rapid economic growth in many countries, with the ASEAN-led process of sub-regional integration having now become an increasingly important driver. Through forging linkages and economic partnerships and trade agreements with other leading economies in the wider region, such as China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, ASEAN is well on its way to strengthened sub-regional integration through the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

As mentioned in the document of ESCAP, the recent economic success of the Asia-Pacific region has been driven largely by international trade, foreign direct investment and the emergence of global and regional production networks and value chains. However, the region's least developed countries

like Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan have yet to fully benefit from the new opportunities arising from enhanced connectivity.

Inequality is also becoming more pronounced in other ways in terms of access to transport, information and communication technology (ICT) and energy resources.

The priority need is to narrow the development gaps through enhanced regional integration and connectivity while promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

Myanmar having been included in the LDC list as of 1987. As you all know, the identification of LDCs includes three criteria that are based on Gross National Income (GNI), Human Assets Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). Myanmar recently set up a national-level committee as part of helping the country out of each criterion that identifies the category of least developed countries confessing the need of a time frame to make systematic preparations in cooperation with UN organizations such as ESCAP.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

We agree that, as globalization continues, the region's future will depend on how countries work together. It means how we have been doing so through regional networks of trade and transport, ICT, energy and people and how we might intensify these networks in the future. As these networks become more integrated strategies to strengthen regional connectivity should be considered not sector by sector but as part of a whole.

In conclusion, as mentioned above, Myanmar has been cooperating with the UN agencies, bilateral and regional institutions for the economic and social development for the entire people. We will be working more closely with UN agencies including UNESCAP and Regional Institutions to achieve our national development goals.

Thank You!