

Statement by H.E. Dr Sai Mauk Kham
Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 21 June 2012

Honorable Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to extend my warmest greetings to you all. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to express my deep honour and pleasure to deliver a statement on this special occasion. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Nations and to our host, the Government of Brazil, for organizing this important event.

It is truly a great opportunity for me to share with you my first ever experience on Myanmar's endeavors to achieve sustainable development. We will work closely with you in seeking a solution to the issues of the co-existence of the people and the planet.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pledged that Myanmar would seek the economic development in parallel with the environmental conservation and has called on all its citizens and social organizations to actively take part in this task.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation believes that deliberations at this conference will produce some fruitful results. We consider that, the outcomes of Rio+20 should include the practical measures for achieving the development and for supporting a transition to Green Economy at the global and national levels.

As we are all aware, the common goal of the world is to achieve sustainable development, which refers to, securing the planet's availability of natural resources for the present and for future generations. We recognize that sustainability of materials and natural resources is easier said than done, and not only a few, but all of us are responsible to do our utmost if we are to reach this goal.

Madam Chair,

The world population stands at 7 billion today and will reach 9 billion by the year 2050.

The combination of the global population increase with associated natural resources and the material consumption rise will surely have significant implications to our finite planet. As both continue in the upward trend, negative impacts such as global warming, climate change and sea level rise are to follow, and as a consequence, crop-yield decline and loss of biodiversity are taking place too, at an alarming rate and it should be noted that some of these may now be irreversible.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar believes in Green Economy and Green Growth as a new development policy, contributing to poverty eradication, improving human welfare and creating new opportunities and decent jobs for all, while maintaining the healthy cycle of the ecosystems.

Myanmar is of the view that there should be different approaches and models based on each country's national circumstances and priorities.

Madam Chair, Ladies and gentlemen,

May I take the opportunity to brief you about the recent reforms being undertaken in my country. Myanmar is in the transition to a system of democracy with the Constitution.

After the new government was handed over state power over a year ago, it has taken concrete and stable reform measures, in the political, economic, social, and administrative areas, and significant progresses have been achieved, within a short period of time.

Furthermore, the government has taken far-reaching steps to ensure the participation of all stakeholders in the political process by conducting by-elections on the 1st of April this year in a free, fair and transparent manner, as an example of the political reform that is currently underway in Myanmar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Chairman, Co-Chairs, negotiators and delegates from member countries have all contributed their best efforts to finalize the Rio + 20 Declaration, to be a meaningful, precise and action-oriented document. We do hope that the Declaration will also reflect the discussions of all the stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers for their excellent arrangements for this conference. I am convinced that through our deliberations here, the conference will be able to achieve our desired outcome for this long overdue sustainable development.

Thank you.