



MYANMAR

**Statement by Ambassador Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations,
at the General Debate of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
(17 July 2020)**

Madame President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Malawi on behalf of the LDCs.

As we are going through a very difficult time in the history of mankind, our theme of this important forum, “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” is very timely and most relevant. We strongly support the HLPF as the appropriate global platform to provide political leadership and guidance on the implementation, follow-up and review of the three dimensions of sustainable development including the SDGs.

Madame President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has also caused devastating impact on the economy and developmental progress of the world, particularly the most vulnerable among developing countries. It is reversing our hard-won development gains and imperiling the progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Madame President,

As for Myanmar, the people are the main source of our strength in fighting this formidable pandemic. We have adopted a whole-of-nation approach by mobilizing our people. The unique character that has clearly emerged from our pandemic response is the spirit of strong voluntarism, caring and sharing among fellow countrymen in times of national emergencies. To ensure that no one is left behind, our response covers all vulnerable segments and affected workers including returning migrant workers.

As a result, we have so far been able to keep the virus under control. As of today, we have only 339 infected cases and 6 cases of death with a good recovery rate. We are implementing a paralleled effort to protect public health, while mitigating economic impacts.

Nevertheless, the unprecedented health crisis imposes great challenges to our country's resilience and economic growth. Precautionary behavior and travel bans continue to negatively impact wholesale and retail trade, tourism-related services, and transportation. Currently, more than 5,700 factories, workplaces, and restaurants had been closed, leaving over 140,000 people unemployed. According to the report of World Bank, Myanmar's GDP growth is estimated to drop from 6.8 percent in FY2018/19 to 0.5 percent in FY2019/20.

For immediate recovery from the crisis, Myanmar has launched the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). All CERP goals have been aligned with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP (2018-2030) which is based on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In line with CERP, the Government of Myanmar has taken a series of actions to cushion the financial, social and economic impacts of the pandemic, and to provide loans to vulnerable sectors and small- and medium-sized businesses. Up to date, a total of 3,000 enterprises had been given loans up to a total of more than 86 billion Kyats (approximate US dollar 60 million). Furthermore, essential food items and cash transfers are also provided to families who do not have regular income. Many other supports and relief packages are being planned and in progress.

Madame President,

In addition to the pandemic, we are also facing the various daunting challenges including climate change, food security and poverty. We need to strengthen our global response to climate change in line with the principles set out in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Myanmar is fully committed to address the climate change. To reduce these affects effectively, Myanmar has adopted National Environment Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan in June 2019. These policy and strategies are fully aligned with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan which sets Myanmar's vision to be a climate-resilient, low-carbon society which is sustainable, prosperous and inclusive for the well-being of the present and future generations by 2030.

Madame President,

It is impossible for States to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in isolation. The current situation highlights the need for a unified response at the global and national level. Working together in strong solidarity is the best approach to safeguarding the 2030 Agenda and the only way for us to rebuild our societies in a better and effective manner. As such, we wish to call on the international community and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate and mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance. We also wish to call for rapid supply of vaccines/immunization and antiviral drugs related to COVID-19 as global public good, when they are available.

As we are entering the Decade of Action, Myanmar reaffirm its commitment to the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will continue to enhance our cooperation to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs to achieve our targeted goals by 2030 without leaving anyone behind.

I thank you, Madame President.
