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Statement

By

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the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On Agenda item 19: Sustainable Development

At the Second Committee

of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 5 November 2013)
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G-77 and China, and the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN.

My delegation also wishes to express our sincere thanks to Secretary-General for his various reports provided under this agenda item 19.

Mr. Chairman,

The most important challenge of the international community is to achieve our common goal of sustainable development. Our efforts for sustainable development must be guided by the Rio+20 outcome document. Given the limited resources and fast growing population of the world, achieving sustainable development will continue to be the overriding challenge of the world in the years ahead. The dimension of sustainable development has transcended national boundaries and becomes the most pressing common preoccupation of the international community. Individual countries cannot overcome the interconnected problems of extreme poverty, economic instability, social inequality, and environmental degradation. It is all the more vital to continue effective international cooperation to enable full achievement of the development goals while maintaining the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as the foundation of the current and future global development efforts.

It is encouraging to learn that sustainable development has grown from theory to good practice. However, we share the view that much has yet to be done to ensure higher levels of accountability, timeliness, efficiency, and political commitment of the Member States and the UN itself in our collective endeavours for sustainable development. In this regard, Myanmar commends the evaluation of the Secretary General on how the need for intergenerational solidarity could be addressed by the UN system, and his analysis as to how the issue of intergenerational solidarity is embedded in the concept of sustainable development and existing treaties, declarations, resolutions and intergovernmental decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

At the Rio+20, the UN was mandated to define Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to identify the financial means for their fulfillment, and to identify the needed inter-governmental machinery in the UNGA and ECOSOC for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Relating to the Rio+20 follow-up processes, we welcome both the current process of the Open Working Group on SDGs, and the intergovernmental Committee on Finance for Sustainable Development (ICFSD).

We welcome the successful convening of the first inaugural meeting of the HLPF last September. We believe that the forum would play a major role in formulating the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda and in encouraging an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental dimensions throughout the United Nations system bodies and organizations. Myanmar hopes that the ICFSD’s work would contribute significant inputs to advance the mobilization of large-scale financing to be utilized for sustainable development such as sustainable energy and urban infrastructure, innovative public-private partnerships.

We are of the view that technology is a skeleton for implementation of sustainable development. Furthermore, developing countries need the appropriate technology to move forward to a more sustainable development path. It is necessary to bridge the technological divide, to promote sustainable industrialization and inclusive growth across the world, in
particular for the developing countries. Myanmar hopes that the efforts to establishing an intergovernmental working group to agree on a global mechanism for technology facilitation will be materialized soon.

Mr. Chairman,

Many countries have been facing natural disasters frequently with high intensity, such as severe floods, droughts, heat waves and devastating storms. Developing countries are most vulnerable to climate change. It is therefore important to continue the climate change negotiations in accordance with the principles and provisions of the climate change Convention with a sense of urgency. In this respect, we join other developing countries in calling upon the developed country Parties to intensify their efforts to fulfill their commitments on the provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, enhancing technology development and transfer, meeting costs of adaptation, and strengthening capacity building in developing country Parties. It is also vital to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, member-states driven outcome in the upcoming negotiation to be held in Warsaw next week, guided by the principles and provision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), Myanmar formulated its National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) which covers three pillars, namely, environment, economic and social aspects of the country. The vision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy is "Wellbeing and Happiness for Myanmar People".

Myanmar believes that Green Economy is important tools for achieving sustainable development. It could provide options for policy makers with a certain degree of flexibility according to their national circumstances and priorities. At present, to achieve sustainable development through Green Economy is paramount important as Myanmar has now opened its door to outside world for promoting international trade and investments. With an emphasis on green economy, preparations are well under way to hold the third green economy green growth forum during this month. Green economy should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while keeping the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems.

Mr. Chairman,

Linking financing, technology, capacity building and national needs are important for sustainable development. We would like to highlight the important role of environmentally sound technology, research and development, technological transfer to developing countries and technological innovation. We are confident that concrete measures are needed to ensure the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology transfer in enhancing ability of developing countries to better address environmental challenges.

My delegation places high hope on the Rio+20 follow-up processes. We hope that the second meeting of the high-level political forum will consider the issue of possible institutional arrangements and other mechanisms to promote intergenerational solidarity for the achievement of sustainable development.

I thank you.