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Statement

By

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On Agenda Item 22: Groups of countries in special situations,
Sub Item (a): Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed Countries

At the Second Committee
of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 21 October 2013)
Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Myanmar delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Fiji on behalf of G-77 and China, as well as Singapore and Benin, on behalf of ASEAN and LDCs respectively. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

We are now fast approaching the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals. Despite tremendous efforts made during the past years, LDCs continue to lag behind in meeting most of the MDGs. Many LDCs are still grappling with pervasive poverty, growing inequality, a sluggish share of manufacturing in GDP, insufficient generation of decent jobs, low levels of productivity and human development, and continued vulnerability. The uneven global impact of economic and environmental shocks also would certainly cause to worsen the severe structural vulnerability of these countries. We share the view that enhanced support and broader cooperation of international community is crucial in order to increase the capacity of LDCs to build resilience against these shocks, and to carry out much needed structural transformation as outlined in the IPoA.

In addressing the challenges and in the effort to achieving the goals and targets of the IPoA, the LDCs need to take bold actions in close cooperation with their developed partners in the eight priority areas identified in the IPoA. The productive capacity should be at the core of the development efforts of LDCs to bring about sustained growth and sustainable development. My delegation firmly believes that progress in productive capacity building will enable the LDCs to sustain an annual growth rate of at least 7 per cent and meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

Mr. Chairman,

Though Myanmar is categorized as a Least Developed Country since 1987, it has not enjoyed any substantive benefit from the international community for economic and trade development over the past 20 years. Development of trade sector is vital for strengthening economy in developing countries, particularly the LDCs. In this regard, aid for trade is important to assist the LDCs in building their trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity.
Mr. Chairman,

I thank you Mr. Chairman. Allow me to conclude by expressing our sincere gratitude to all development partners and UN agencies for supporting Myanmar in the implementation of the Framework on Economic and Social Reform (ESR), which focuses on promoting the inclusive growth and quick wins. We are also aiming to meet the criteria for graduation from LDC status by 2020, and to move towards knowledge-based economy. To this end, the government has targeted to achieve a sustained economic growth at 7.7% in the next five years.

With a view to achieving the objective of sustainable, equitable and inclusive development, the government of Myanmar has been implementing the Framework on Economic and Social Reform (ESR), which focuses on promoting the inclusive growth and quick wins. We are also aiming to meet the criteria for graduation from LDC status by 2020, and to move towards knowledge-based economy. To this end, the government has targeted to achieve a sustained economic growth at 7.7% in the next five years.

We are of the view that by integrating the priorities and goals of the IPOA into their national development strategies and programmes, least developed countries will be able to realize their goal to reach graduation status by 2020.

Mr. Chairman,

Similarly, full implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access for products exported by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are also critical for accelerating job creation in export sectors. Even though EU has reinstated GSP for Myanmar since July 2013, Myanmar is not yet eligible for all preferential treatment, including duty-free, quota-free market access for all export items. Therefore, we would like to urge donor countries to fulfill their international obligations in helping the economic and social development of the developing countries, especially the least developed ones.