

## **Statement by the Government of Myanmar at the Conclusion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum**

The Government of Myanmar hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum on 27-28 January 2014, with the theme of “*Accelerating Actions for Progress through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination.*” Myanmar’s international partners, including bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and INGOs, and a wide range of national stakeholder groups, including members of Parliament, representatives from States and Regions, civil society groups, the private sector, and academia, reviewed the overall progress in reform and development as well as the progress in making international assistance more effective.

President U Thein Sein opened the Forum to signify the importance his Government attaches to the partnerships with the international community. The President of the World Bank Group, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, gave a keynote address, highlighting the international community’s keen interest in Myanmar’s reform efforts.

In his opening address, President U Thein Sein noted that through the four phases of reform, encompassing political reforms, social and economic reforms, administrative reforms, and reforms to support private sector development, the development process has begun to gain momentum. Nevertheless, he stressed that further acceleration of Myanmar’s development will require effective collaboration and joint efforts among all stakeholder groups. In this regard, he acknowledged the key role that Myanmar’s development partners play, and hence underlined the importance of effective cooperation between the Government and the development partners.

In his keynote speech, World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim stressed the importance of access to good healthcare, electricity and agricultural development as essential elements of Myanmar’s fight against poverty. He expressed strong support for Myanmar’s courageous efforts to transform itself into a peaceful, democratic, and economically successful country, and pledged his institution’s full support, including development financing of over \$2 billion in the coming years.

The participants noted that, since the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum in January 2013, the Government's reform has progressed further; the participants also agreed, however, that there is more to be done to promote harmony among all ethnic groups, improve social services, promote diversified and productive agriculture, build new industries and services, and accelerate employment creation.

The people of Myanmar are eager to see tangible benefits of reforms as soon as possible. While acknowledging their desire, the participants of the Forum also recognized that even the sweeping reforms of Myanmar over the past few years will not generate rapid economic growth overnight. They were confident, however, that Myanmar is on the right path, and that economic acceleration will come in due course. It is important to remain confident in this process and not to compromise on the fundamental principles of reform.

Accelerating the on-going transition will require strong support from our development partners. They can bring both financial and knowledge resources. It is essential that those resources are effectively and efficiently utilized. It is for that reason that the Government and the development partners adopted the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation at the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum. This Forum reviewed the progress we have made on this critical issue since a year ago.

The participants appreciated that a well-organized system of coordination between the Government and the development partners has been established. They were also pleased that the Government is making progress in formulating the National Comprehensive Development Plan, an outline of which the Government shared with the participants at this second Forum. They expressed their strong support for it, and noted that it will provide the basis for effective development cooperation with a long-term perspective. In several sectors, the Government has also made strides toward establishing clear national strategies.

Nonetheless, the participants also recognized that there remain many obstacles in effective implementation of development programs. They range from simple procedural issues to inadequate understanding of the local conditions. It was agreed that the Government and development partner will jointly address them systematically.

To ensure effective and coordinated actions to accelerate development, the Government and its development partners agreed to formulate a new Nay Pyi Taw Accord Action Plan as soon as possible. It will give their joint efforts a greater focus. Development partners also pledged to step up their efforts to align their support to the emerging national strategies and priorities, and to give their strongest support to capacity building in government institutions.

The Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Kan Zaw, closed the Forum by reflecting the general satisfaction of the participants over open and substantive discussions as well as a sense of shared progress toward greater cooperation and delivery of tangible results. He noted that various commitments made at the Forum will be monitored closely, and reviewed systematically at a mid-year review meeting as well as at the next Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in 2015.

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