**Myanmar’s Development Cooperation Architecture**

**Background**

The Government of Myanmar held the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum with development partners in January, 2013.  The Government of Myanmar and the development partners endorsed the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation at the Forum. The Nay Pyi Taw Accord embodies the principles of ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Nay Pyi Taw Accord commits the Government of Myanmar to “create systems for regular, nationally-led dialogue with development partners at the national, sub-national and sectoral/thematic levels” and commits development partners to “actively support manageable, Ministry-led, sectoral and thematic coordination mechanisms, organised around Myanmar Government structures, avoiding the creation of an excessive number of working groups”. As a result, the Government of Myanmar established in 2013, in consultation with development partners, the following coordination framework for development cooperation.

1. **Government of Myanmar and Development Partner meetings**

Meetings between the Government of Myanmar and development partners provide a high-level platform for considering overall progress on, and development partner support to, national reforms and the implementation of mutual commitments. Two Myanmar Development Cooperation Forums were held in January, 2013 and January, 2014 and a mid-term meeting of the Government of Myanmar and development partners was held in July, 2013. Development partners also established a new Development Partners Group (DPG) in late-2013.  Membership is open to all of Myanmar’s bilateral and multilateral development partners. The UN and DFID co-chair the DPG.  The overall objective of the DPG is to improve development assistance effectiveness and coordination.  The DPG supercedes the former Partnership Group for Aid Effectiveness (PGAE).

1. **Foreign Economic Relations Department-Development Partner Working Committee meetings**

The Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) of the Ministry of Planning and National Development is the principal Government focal point for development cooperation. FERD meets with the Development Partners Working Committee (DPWC) approximately every two months to ensure active dialogue and coordination between the Government of Myanmar and development partners. The meetings cover issues related to Myanmar’s overall development and the effectiveness of assistance provided by development partners. The development partners that constitute the DPWC are ADB, Australia, EU, Japan/JICA, DFID, UN, USAID and the World Bank. The UN and DFID co-chair the DPWC. The DPWC liaises closely with the DPG.

1. **Sector Working Groups**

It was agreed at the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum to establish Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to ensure effective coordination at the sector/thematic level and promote development effectiveness in Myanmar. SWGs aim to ensure that sectoral strategies and priorities are elaborated by the Government of Myanmar as well as identifying priority programmes and ‘quick win’ initiatives to be implemented with development partner support. SWGs are intended to be a one-stop shop for coordination in their respective sectors. SWGs should meet periodically. The Government of Myanmar chairs SWGs through a Lead Ministry. Members are Line Ministries relevant to the sector and development partners who provide technical and/or financial support to the sector. CSOs, INGOs, academic and private sector representatives may be consulted and/or invited to attend SWG meetings. It is expected that fuller participation of these constituencies will be progressively introduced as SWG mechanisms develop and mature.

There are now 16 SWGs in the following sectors:

1. Education
2. Cultural Conservation
3. Agriculture & Rural Development
4. Environmental Conservation
5. Employment Opportunities
6. Electric Power
7. Health & Water Supply
8. Communications & Information Technology
9. Transportation
10. Social Protection & Disaster Risk Reduction
11. Public Administration & Reform Process
    1. Public Financial Management Sub-Group
12. Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment
13. Media
14. Hotels & Tourism
15. Statistical Quality Development
16. Trade

*February 2014*