



Second Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum

Joint Statement by the European Union

The European Union, represented by its Ambassadors, Heads of Mission and Representatives at the second Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, welcomes the efforts and the progress that have been made by the Government and development partners in implementing the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation since January 2013.

The European Union has agreed a Comprehensive Framework to guide its work in Myanmar. Our goals are to support political, social and economic development, fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to assist the Government in rebuilding its place in the international community. The EU looks forward to working in partnership with the Government and other stakeholders to promote peace, democracy and inclusive sustainable development to the benefit of the people of Myanmar.

In November 2013, the EU-Myanmar Task Force was launched, providing a platform for debate among Government, civil society and private sector representatives drawn from both the EU and Myanmar. This covered progress made and challenges faced by the country, the upcoming economic opportunities, and how the EU could best contribute to the on-going transition. Following the Task Force, in December 2013 the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU, gathering all 28 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU with the EU High Representative and Vice President, committed to significantly increase development cooperation with the country in the 2014-20 period. The main focal areas will be peace building, governance, rural development, health, education, and trade and private sector development. This work will be complemented by support to the cross-cutting issues of human rights, civil society, gender and environment. In order to make significant progress in these areas, increased budget allocations from the Government would be welcomed.

At the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in January 2013, the EU looked forward to supporting the Government in implementing its Accord pledges on democracy, human rights, the rule of law and inclusive growth and development. The Ambassadors, Heads of Mission and Representatives of the European Union present at the meeting also committed to deliver on the development partner promises made in the Accord. In order to move from paper to practice, we proposed to take forward a series of tangible actions, and to act as a catalyst for others. We are now pleased to report on the progress that has been made on these actions over the last year, along with the next steps to be taken.

1. Alignment: we have aligned our specific projects and programmes with the Framework for Economic and Social Reform and will continue to promote participatory approaches that involve all actors, including Parliament, local authorities, civil society and the private sector. From 2016 on we will seek to coordinate our work around the national planning cycle.

2. Joint Response: the common EU analysis of the country announced last year has been completed. Based on this a Joint EU Development Partners Transitional Strategy for Myanmar covering 2014-16 has now been agreed. This Strategy puts forward a combined offer of support, setting out which sectors each of us intend to work in to deliver our agreed contributions, along with corresponding indicative financial commitments. The next step is to implement the Strategy on the ground.

3. Conflict-sensitive Response: the EU-Myanmar Task Force strongly supported efforts aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation and the EU will continue to mainstream conflict-sensitive and inclusive approaches throughout our work.

4. Joint Implementation: we are following a division of labour and working through joint initiatives with other development partners wherever possible and appropriate. In line with this approach, we will continue to be active contributors to the multi-donor trust funds that have been established.

5. Aid Information Management System (AIMS): the EU has provided technical assistance to Government to design and build a system that will be rolled out in the coming weeks. EU development partners have also provided comprehensive data on their projects and programmes to feed into the system. This tool will enable us to highlight gaps and overlaps and to better plan future initiatives over the coming years.

6. Results Dashboard: on the basis of the AIMS, we would like to now provide support to develop a results dashboard that gathers a handful of key development and aid effectiveness indicators and can be publically assessed on an annual or bi-annual basis.

7. Coordination structure: through our dedicated aid effectiveness consultants in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon we have provided significant support to the establishment of the Development Partners Working Committee and the Development Partners Group along with the meetings of these bodies with Government. We have also worked closely with Government and other development partners to establish the Sector Working Groups and now act as Co-Leads for seven of these. In the coming year our focus will shift from process to delivery, as we work to ensure that these structures become driven by results. In addition we will continue to provide technical assistance to their secretariats.

8. Technical Cooperation: the EU has participated in a new group together with other development partners to look at how to improve technical cooperation. In 2014 we will seek to agree on specific measures that can be taken to improve delivery. When hiring technical assistance we have given a lead role to Government in selection and management and will continue to follow this practice.

We look forward to work with Government and all development actors in further implementing the Accord over the coming year and addressing the remaining implementation challenges, and continuing to support peace, democracy, human rights and inclusive sustainable development for the benefit of the people of Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

January 27th, 2014