

Country Statement

By

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**on the occasion of the third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy,
Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development**

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Mr. Chairman,

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all and ‘Mingalarpar’, greetings from Myanmar!

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver the statement at this important third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to UNESCAP for inviting us and thank you for your best efforts to hold this meeting during this challenging time.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When the world struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic, countries are also continuing to focus on development challenges like reducing poverty, creating jobs and pursuing sustainable development. These challenges may enclose to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2030 Agenda.

The important lesson during this period is cross-sectoral thinking on the actions and implementation approach. We are necessary to focus on current policies and related

implementation that we can make prioritizing action to manage issues to be in line with new normal situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the COVID-19, the government of Myanmar is making the multiple measures to address and alleviate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we all know that, while countries prioritize speedy economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, financial flows are critical for not to divert away from the SDGs and “build back better” for enhancing the resilience of their economies.

In this regard, I would like to briefly touch upon the government’s efforts towards an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Myanmar is undertaking a two-pronged approach consisting of performing the preventive and control measures and facilitating access to remedy for the economy affected by this pandemic with added speed and possible ways.

To remedy the economy affected by the COVID-19, the Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) which is in line with the other regional plans will be launched very soon. To mitigate the inevitable economic impact posed by COVID-19, we are making efforts through not only supporting financial stimulus, regulatory stimulus by streamlining procedures and easing the rules and regulations, but also providing financial stimulus by the establishment of the special fund for the business sectors.

Myanmar has begun disbursing loans and assistance to local business and rice exporters as part of immediate relief measures amid coordinated economic sabotage to disrupt the economy and access to foreign aid, investments and international trade and to shake confidence in the local banking sector.

Since the third wave of COVID-19 is spreading in Myanmar like other world nations, we are making our utmost efforts in carrying out the prevention, control and treatment activities in collaboration with the people. The government is also undertaking to access the essential medical supplies, liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders by arranging continuous importation through trading posts, international airport and seaports with standard operating procedures. A plan was adopted to complete vaccination for 50 per cent of the people (above 18 years) at the end of December 2021 and 70 per cent in mid-2022. No matter how there are many challenges, we will strive to overcome the various difficulties and hindrances.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The government of Myanmar has announced the Five Points Roadmap and Nine Objectives to be carried out for future actions since February 2021. Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan- MSDP (2018-2030) has also been implemented since 2018. MSDP is a long term vision and intended to inclusive and balanced development aligned with the SDGs, and various regional commitments.

Myanmar will continue to implement the SDGs and also all commitments agreed in the Asia -Pacific region including GMS Strategy 2030, GMS Covid-19 Recovery Plan and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF).

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would also like to highlight that digital technology plays a crucial role in pandemic prevention and control, and boosting economy. We need to strengthen cooperation on technology and innovation, promote the development of digital economy, and advance new industries and new business models to spur the economic recovery of the UNESCAP member countries while leaving no one behind and cooperation are very critical.

So, Committee is requested to review the innovative and digital financing strategies and discuss good practices and challenges in their deployment in the region. We also request to provide guidance to the secretariat on how it can support member states through technical assistance. During this critical moment of tackling with the pandemic and stimulating economic recovery, UNESCAP is requested to build a strong community in the region.

In conclusion, Myanmar continues to cooperate and integrate with regional organizations, governments to effectively promote sustainable development. Let our partnership continue as a pragmatic way to benefit us all.

Furthermore, we would enhance collective efforts in escalating the existing regional healthcare cooperation mechanism, equal accessing of COVID-19 vaccine, sharing of experiences and best practices for economic and social development system, strengthening the development of digital economy, and ensuring the health and security for migrant workers, etc.

I believe the next two days provide us the good practice for policy improvement and good method for beyond COVID-19 that would invigorate for promoting sustainable development.

I thank you.
