General Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the 67th session of the Trade and Development Board

Geneva, 7 September 2020

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Madam Deputy Secretary-General
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to commend you, Mr. President and members of the Bureau as well as the Secretariat for your excellent work during this difficult and challenging time. I wish to assure you of our full support for the successful outcome of this session.

Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Taking this opportunity, Myanmar wishes to join others in expressing its appreciation to Barbados for its continued commitment to hosting the UNCTAD 15 in April 2021. Myanmar strongly hope that the Ministerial conference as a highest decision-making body of the UNCTAD could set the policy framework as well as guidance to respond to the current global challenges, under the theme of “From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for All”.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, due to this unprecedented situation, the global economy seems to be gloomy following the enforcement of social distancing, lockdowns and strict measures implemented to contain the COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries.

In addition, the devastating consequences of the pandemic add on to the existing challenges encountered by developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing States, in pursuing sustainable development and meeting SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda remains the essential framework to achieve inclusive and sustainable development of the developing countries and it requires earnest
implementation. However, the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda is falling behind the time track envisaged in 2015.

Mr. President,

We are of the view that the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development together with other important framework agreements, such as Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development and the Paris Agreement, can be used as a basic cooperation framework to enhance our collective efforts to respond the impacts of the pandemic and to build back better.

In this context, further strengthening multilateralism, international cooperation and global partnership is more important than ever before.

Mr. President,

Supporting the people of Myanmar and businesses is always the primary focus of our Government. Hence, during this pandemic, the Government has tried different approaches to support the economy. In order to mitigate the impact on the economy, businesses and households, the Government has established a dedicated COVID-19 Fund and has also been implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

While economies around the world continue to suffer, the Government of Myanmar has provided various kinds of assistance to different sectors. Special attention was given to the small and medium business sectors, especially garments manufacturing, hotels and tourism.

The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) also provides a roadmap, helping us ride this wave of COVID-19 inspired technological transformation - encouraging our MSMEs to adopt mobile payment services.

Myanmar has witnessed an unparalleled spike in its digital payment segment. Now most of us are favouring contactless payments over traditional physical cash payments to stay safe. This is the major step for the country. Experts estimate that the number of mobile payment users will reach 7.5 million by 2024.
Mr. President,

Myanmar always values the role of UNCTAD and its work, delivering necessary assistance and expertise to the developing countries to keep their track in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Last week, consultation on the e-commerce strategy of Myanmar was conducted virtually and various stakeholders participated actively in the discussion. In this regard, we would like to thank UNCTAD for its continuous support in our efforts for all round development in Myanmar.

Mr. President,

In this critical juncture, we all need to double our efforts for addressing the new challenges posed by the pandemic and for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in a coordinated and effective manner.

In conclusion, we call on the international financial institutions and development partners to provide --- and sufficient liquidity and fiscal space and technical assistance to the developing countries especially LDCs in strengthening their national capacities and building economic recovery.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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