



MYANMAR

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun,
Permanent Representative of Myanmar**

**Item 3: Actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support States in
the recovery of their trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic
at the 67th session of the Trade and Development Board**

Geneva, 3 July 2020

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Madam Deputy Secretary-General

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Since this is the first time my delegation taking the floor at this session, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President and members of the Bureau for your election. We assure you of our full support in discharging of your responsibilities.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Michael Gaffey, outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board for his able leadership, relentless efforts and dedication to the work of the Board.

I thank Madam Deputy Secretary-General for her comprehensive and informative presentation.

Mr. President,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered by G77 and China, APG and LDC Group.

COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing challenges many countries are facing especially in the area of economic development. According to the World Bank, the global economy will shrink by 5.2% in 2020. The consequences of the pandemic and impact on the economy are being felt throughout the world. Millions have lost their jobs and public finances have come under immense strain. In addition, flows of trade and investment have been disrupted.

Foreign direct investment (FDI), according to the world investment report 2020, is expected to decrease by up to 40 % in 2020 from their 2019 value of \$1.54 trillion. The developing economies which are highly dependent on extractive industries and global value chain (GVC)-intensive FDI, will be immensely suffered due to their vulnerability to supply chain disruptions.

Amidst the multitude of challenges, maintaining the integrity of domestic and regional supply chains must be among the highest priorities that countries should place. Myanmar is committed to ensuring supply chain connectivity and to guarding against restrictive measures that would threaten access to essential goods, including medical supplies.

While tackling the pandemic, many countries have established short and long-term socio-economic plan to cope with the challenges. The Government of Myanmar is also attempting to mitigate the impact on macroeconomy, households and businesses by establishing a dedicated COVID-19 Fund and by implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). CERP also provides a roadmap, helping us ride this wave of COVID-19 inspired technological transformation - encouraging our MSMEs to adopt mobile payment services.

Mr. President,

The current crisis reveals the importance of the digital economy and the development of productive capacities. There has been a large continuous shift to digital trading in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. At this stage, there is a clear need to strengthen the legal framework around e-commerce, improve the quality and affordability of digital infrastructure and enhance digital inclusion.

For developing countries, productive capacities are fundamental for diversifying economies and helping to achieve the goal of structural transformation. We urge our development partners to continue extend their helping hands to the countries in need to enhance its productive capacities and build a resilient economy.

Mr. President,

We would like to commend the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the Secretariat for a number of findings, initiatives and coordinated efforts, undertaken in the time of crisis, inter alia, calling for a global debt deal for the developing world and launching of Tech Access Partnership (TAP). Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank the Secretary-General and his team for the support and the works of UNCTAD in Myanmar, particularly in the area of formulating e-commerce strategy and the technical cooperation.

Mr. President,

Time is of the essence. We cannot put aside the normal or routine activities and ongoing projects, in parallel we all double our efforts for addressing the new challenges posed by the pandemic in a coordinated and effective manner.

We always value the work of UNCTAD which plays a vital role in supporting economic development in member states. Therefore, we would like to request UNCTAD to continue its technical support, capacity building and policy guidance

to the developing countries not only to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, also to strike for the achievement of sustainable development goals.

I, thank you, Mr. President.
