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Plenary on Item 5:
UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation
of the Istanbul Programme of Action for
the least developed countries: Second progress report

Speaker: Dr. Kan Zaw
on behalf of Myanmar

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Dr.Kan Zaw

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at the High Level Session on UNCTAD's Contribution to the
Implementation of IPOA for LDCs

UNCTAD, Geneva

20 September 2013

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor to give the scenarios in Myanmar and how we are struggling out Programme of Action in line with the National Development Plans we are undertaking. I am going to highlight Myanmar's Economic Policy, Frame work for Social and Economic Reform (FESR) and program and perspectives of how Myanmar is planning to keeping up with the ASEAN and International Norms and standards.

Under FESR, 10 areas for reforms are indicated and some have already got the results. The FESR focuses on potential "quick win" on the following within 5 years or 60 months term ;

1. Fiscal and Tax Reforms
2. Monetary and Financial Sector Reforms
3. Liberalization of Trade and Investment
4. Private Sector Development
5. Health and Education
6. Food Security and Agricultural Growth

7. Governance and Transparency
8. Mobile Phones and Internet
9. Infrastructure
10. Effective and Efficient Government

On the otherhand , the Government has laid down 4 Economic Policy Objectives for its first 5 Year Plan 2011-2016, focusing on;

- (a) Sustaining agriculture development towards Industrialization and all round development;
- (b) Balanced and proportionate development among regions and states
- (c) Inclusive Growth for the entire population
- (d) Quality of statistics and statistical system

Based on Policy and Framework, we have formulated 1st Five Year Plan (2011-2016) targeted towards “People Centered Development”, and long term “National Comprehensive Development Plan (2011-2031). We have targeted average 7.8 % of GDP within first five year plan (2011-2016). According to OECD and ERIA estimates, Myanmar can have a average growth of more than 8 % for 2011-2031 by having average 7 Billion investment.

With 4 pillars of reforms: Political, Economic, Public Administration, and Private Sector Development, the country is speeding up to reach it goals within the first 5 year plan period.

Distinguished Delegate

With the commitments made in his Inaugural Speech by the President, the new government is implementing the proceedings such as ensuring governance, clean government and democratic practices, fundamental rights of citizens, the rule of law, transparency, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, creation of a harmonious society, economic reforms and environmental conservation.

The vision of our Government is to become modern, democratic and developed nation that meets the aspirations of its people through People Centered Development. As you all have witnessed, passed 30 months, we have had successive reforms, and some underway.

For the remaining 30 months, we are giving priority on basic infrastructure and public utilities, such as electricity, Telecom, Public Transport, Safe Drinking Water and jobs creation and labour intensive agro-based industries (SMEs) and development of Hotel and Tourism sector for socioeconomic life of citizens.

The overarching goal of the Programme of Action adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDC held in Istanbul in 2011 is " to increase Production, *to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category*". Those commitments, accountability and partnership between LDCs and their development partners call for concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas with priority. For Myanmar, most of the targets mentioned are in line with those MDG Goals

we have to perform. Within the context of National Development Plans, MDG Goals are being implemented and they also reflect many priority areas of IPOA.

To update, there have been significant amount of foreign direct investment inflows in Hotel and Tourism Sector, and Real Estate due to the creation of better investment environment in Myanmar. Myanmar's open door policy drastically changed the business environment for the private sector, and it creates more job opportunities, better systems for public utilities, education, and healthcare and uplifts the living standard in urban areas. Therefore, Myanmar pays special attention to urbanization and the sustainable development of our cities.

On the other hand, Myanmar is developing Special Economic Zones in three areas; DaweiSEZ which is connected to Southern corridor and facing India, ThilawaSEZ near Yangon, and KyaukphyuSEZ near Kunming -Myanmar Gas and oil Pipe line are systematical established, have opened doors for investors and MNCs as developers and partners. In due course, these programs enhance our plan for urbanization and zoning development. For the long run Myanmar is embarking on Two Polars development model: Yangon and Mandalay growth poles.

Rapid urbanization puts huge demand on housing, telecommunication, cleaned water distribution, good sanitation system, transportation, and other utilities. We have looked to develop sustainable growth strategies that support economic growth and job creation, as well as provide a good quality living environment. Our basic consideration is to

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ensure that there is a need for diversity of housing which is affordable for different income groups.

Distinguished Delegates,

We have also planned to promote the use of public transport, both railways (LRT) and Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) for the implementation of effective mode of transportation system in Yangon and aiming to create new circular line for Yangon. In addition to that Myanmar is endeavoring to create better rail and road transportation system in the country. Due to increasing investment projects and tourists arrival to country, demand for air transport becomes more popular mode of transportation. In association with these improvements, other related services such as restaurants, hotels, are growing considerably and subsequently poverty reduction and urbanization process become noticeably achieving in the country.

The Government of Myanmar sets up following long term goals for Urban Sector: establishment of systematic National Spatial Development Plan; establishment of integrated, sustainable and resilient urban network that will lead to balance development and sustainable allocation of investment and financial resources; upgrading of the organizational and legal setup of the urban development institutions.

To be able to materialize these long term goals, the following strategies are laid down in Urban Sector: Myanmar National Spatial Development Plan that will support and materialize National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP); to integrate urban land use in

drafting National Comprehensive Land Use Plan in order to systematically allocate reserved land for future urban development; to develop integrated Urban Network System through survey and analysis of the socio-economic potentials of the individual urban centers; to build resilience of the urban centers and the urban network system; to set up spatial development planning policies and guidelines for National, as well as Regional and State levels. Myanmar also targets to upgrade living standards and provide adequate and affordable housing for all the citizens as a long term goal.

In addition, the Government recognizes that if issues relating to land tenure security and land conflict are not addressed, it could have negative impacts on foreign direct investment, sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, social harmony and development of a stable system of democratic governance that respects the rights of all citizens. In respect of this recognition, the Farmland Law and the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Lands Management Law were approved by Parliament on March, 2012, and enacted in April, 2012. We are also carefully conserving our environment by systematic logging and planting man made forests and well maintaining of reserved forests through our new environment law which enacted in March 2012.

Key elements like “**four I’s**” that drive economic development; **INVESTMENT** in the productive sector, **INSTITUTIONAL** development, **INCLUSIVENESS** and **INNOVATION**, are being striven by Myanmar to showcase its best to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. We would like to refer that UNCTAD's record of cooperation and its expertise places it at the forefront of the global debate on the challenges

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and its strong commitments for the framework of development programmes for LDCs are very welcoming.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the short term, and long term plan have been drawn, the significant changes are taking place in order to ensure the creation of an investment friendly climate attractive towards potentially beneficial and responsible investments. With such developments, the interest towards Myanmar from foreign investors and interested parties are also growing exponentially. We would like to welcome to the potential investors to contribute to creating an inclusive development of Myanmar through making responsible investments and partnerships. I am looking forward to continuing our cooperation with UNCTAD to build more engagement and provide more a new technical assistance approach.

I, thank you.