

**Country Statement to be delivered by H.E. U Ohn Winn, Union  
Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental  
Conservation, Myanmar, at the Fifth GMS Environment  
Ministers' Meeting**

[1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Chaing Mai, Thailand]

Your Excellences, **the Ministers from GMS Countries**

Excellency **General Surasak Karnjanarat, Minister of Natural  
Resources and Environment of Thailand**

Excellency **Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam, Director General, Southeast  
Asia Regional Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Honorable Representatives from Development Partners

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

A Very Good Morning!

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and my delegation, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for hosting this Fifth GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting and for its warm hospitality and also sincere thanks to the Asian Development Bank and the Environment Operations Center for their excellent support rendered to this meeting.

2. Myanmar, the largest country in the main land of Southeast Asia, is rich in natural capital in terms of forests, minerals, including petroleum, natural gas, precious stones and also large hydroelectric power potential. At present, Myanmar's economy is shifting from an agriculture-based economy towards greater industrialization and integration with global markets for the economic development.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

3. Indeed, I am confident that the theme of EMM-5 “GMS Environmental Cooperation Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth,” aims to generate high-level consensus from the GMS countries and stakeholders in charting the future direction for strengthened joint regional responses on environment, particularly focusing on translating green growth principles into actions. With this spirit, strengthening partnership plays a key platform to foster stronger GMS collaboration to increase investments in natural capital.

4. In this very significant occasion, it is truly a great opportunity for me to share experiences of our efforts to achieve sustainable development through the integration of environmental consideration into sustainable economic development.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

5. Recognizing the challenges of leading to environmental degradation and pollution in this process of transformation, the sustainability of natural capital and environmental conservation and management are important to integrate into the national planning and implementation of the country's economic development.

6. In the light of ongoing social, economic and environmental transformation of Myanmar pertaining to recent developments in the area of environmental conservation, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pledged that Myanmar would seek the economic development in parallel with the environmental conservation.

7. As of the Vision in the National Environmental Policy Framework, Myanmar will be, by 2030, actively protecting and managing the environment in ways that maintain biodiversity, support inclusive social and economic progress, respect human rights, and enhance quality of life for all people now and in future generations. Myanmar will have prioritized low-carbon and green economic development, and this will help ensure healthy and functioning ecosystems and living environments for all people.

8. In order to promote green investments, the Green Economy Policy Framework is currently being drafted to ensure greener investments and less impact from brown investments in order to support sustainable economic development. It will help Myanmar to guarantee environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, healthy ecosystem and environment.

9. Promoting institutional and management mechanisms for environmental quality management, developing the national environmental quality standards for environmental compliance, formulating the regulations, strategies, master plan and action plans for strong environmental governance, enhancing the public awareness to promote the community engagement and assessing the requirements for pollution control measures are the current efforts for the better environment of Myanmar.

10. At the same time, we have been developing Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in order to build climate resilient and low carbon pathways towards inclusive sustainable development.

11. Investment in climate resilient and low carbon development pathway and adoption of environmentally sound technologies at an early stage can provide sustainable and resource efficient opportunities for socio-economic development. With a view to integrating environmental considerations into national development processes, the Environmental Conservation Law and rules were enacted in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Furthermore, Myanmar Investment Policy with emphasis on national security and integrity, economic development and environmental sustainability, Law, Rules and Notification were promulgated recently.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

12. With the continuing inspired attitude, these are indicated as prominent witness to the international community that the Myanmar Government has increased its efforts to mainstream environmental protection into the national economic development plan. Despite successful ongoing efforts, mainstreaming environmental consideration into cross-sectoral development planning is a major challenge due to lack of technology, limited capacity and efficient coordination mechanism as well as insufficient comprehensive regulatory framework. These challenges in terms of population pressure, poverty, deforestation, land use conflicts and land degradation and climate change are not new to the developing countries including Myanmar.

13. In order to support the green economy initiative, we are trying to establish mechanisms at the national level to implement CDM, REDD+ and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) with the technical assistance from international organizations.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

14. I would like to reiterate that Myanmar, being a developing country, is still very much dependent on its natural resources for economic and social development, and therefore, we are fully aware that managing natural capital and utilizing natural resources sustainably is vital to a green, low carbon and resource-efficient economy for the real perpetual development. We look forward to having cooperation with our GMS member countries and also international organizations. I believe that this meeting will provide a significant platform for long-term cooperation among GMS countries in enhancing natural capital investment which will contribute to our partnership to move towards sustainable development in this region.

15. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all GMS colleagues and development partners for your active participation. I would also like to reiterate my thanks to the Asian Development Bank and Environment Operations Center for their kind cooperation and great assistance.

Thank You!