Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Statement By

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Dear Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Turkey for hosting this important meeting and warm hospitality extended to us.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight some important achievements that Myanmar has already made. Myanmar is progressing on its path to a peaceful, democratic and more developed nation. Myanmar has embraced significant reforms in line with the objectives and priority areas of the IPOA. With the policy of People Centered Development, we have achieved fruitful outcomes of peace and mutual understanding among the national ethnic groups, more balanced and proportionate growth in the country.

The newly elected democratic government has assumed office since 1st April 2016. The country’s development landscape is also changing with special attention on practicing more democratic principles, strong aspirations for more equitable development by strengthening rule of law, anti-corruption and sharing prosperity.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

We are trying to ensure alignment between the IPOA and National Comprehensive Development Plan. We recognize that graduation is a means to achieve structural changes, poverty eradication, economic diversification and human development.

My delegation would like to highlight vulnerabilities of LDCs to various kinds of shocks particularly those posed by climate change and natural disasters which can reverse or undermine national development efforts. Myanmar suffered severe floods last year and affected 12 of the country's 14 states and declared a state of emergency in 4 states. It caused losses and damages and severe negative impact on our national economy.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

It is delighted to see that all the concerns and aspirations of LDCs are well reflected in the outcome document of the Midterm Review. Despite a lot of efforts
and progress made, many LDCs continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints such as climate change, natural disasters, narrow production and export base, volatile commodity prices, widespread poverty and hunger, institutional and capacity constraints and economic challenges.

Among many other approaches to overcome these challenges, I wish to highlight some of the areas on which Myanmar puts special attention, and in which we focus on increasing the strength and consistency of our strategies, policies and mechanisms. These include innovative financing mechanisms, developing infrastructure through Public Private Partnerships, capacity building, domestic resource mobilization, promoting transparency, fighting corruption, enhancing agricultural productivity, creating an enabling business environment and building a resilient economy.

We must find ways and approaches to build resilient economies by empowering people, creating employment, developing human resources, strengthening good governance and leadership. Therefore, sustained and effective global partnerships and national efforts with strong leadership and commitments are essential to help LDCs overcome their challenges and reduce their vulnerability. Therefore, we hope this meeting can help find solution for declining ODA to LDCs.

**Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

I hope this meeting will result in fruitful outcomes for the continued implementation of the IPoA. Myanmar as a late comer is increasing the speed of its reform process to keep abreast with other countries. In order not to delay the achievement of national targets, speed as well as the quality of reforms are vital. We will make our best effort in conducting national reform process to be in line with IPOA.

I look forward to closer cooperation with all the stakeholders for the development of Myanmar in the future. Thank you for your kind attention!

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