



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the Ministerial Segment of the High-Level Political Forum
(New York, 20 July 2023)**

Madam President,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China, the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN and Nepal on behalf of LDCs respectively.

Madam President,

The SDG Progress Report of the Secretary General revealed an alarming sign that only about 12 percent of SDG targets are on track and nearly 50 percent are moderately or severely off track. Although the stagnation in SDG progress is universal, developing countries and LDCs are facing far more structural constraints and not enough resources to realize the SDGs. We must tackle the widening developmental gaps and inequalities to leave no one behind as we take transformative actions to accelerate towards the successful implementation of the SDGs.

At the same time, Myanmar commends the efforts of those member states that are on track to meet the SDGs.

Myanmar acknowledges the role of peace, security and good governance in creating conditions conducive to realizing the SDGs.

Madam President,

In my country Myanmar, the elected civilian government was committed to taking the people-centered approach and a whole-of-government development framework by

envisioning the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) and implementing “Action Plans” to fully realize the SDGs. As a result, poverty rates, maternal and neonatal mortality rates, undernourishment and tuberculosis incidences were going down, while Universal Health Coverage (UHC) index, access to sexual and reproductive health, clean water and sanitation use and literacy rates were going up. According to the Sustainable Development Report, Myanmar was showing an overall upward trend of SDG index score until 2021.

Regrettably, the illegal military coup and the military junta’s atrocities have reversed all the hard-earned progress on realization of the SDGs. As it stands, 39 percent of SDG indicators are limited in progress and 42 percent of them are regressing, the worst among the region. In the interest of time, allow me to shed light on a few of the SDGs that have since been deteriorating.

Goal 3: Following the coup, the Expanded Program on Immunization was suspended in many areas across Myanmar and the immunization programs for children have been nearly non-functional for more than two years. During the past year, nationwide measles vaccination coverage has dropped from 91 percent to 34 percent.

Goal 6: Access to good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services has also become limited among IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States. The use of unsafe water is raising concerns about potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Goal 5: Physical, sexual and psychological violence against women in public, private and digital spheres continues to escalate. Violence against women has become a widespread and systemic tool used by the military to punish those taking part in peaceful protests or speaking out against its atrocities.

Madam President,

In conclusion, Goal 16 remains the cornerstone of other SDGs in Myanmar. Achieving peace, justice, accountable and inclusive institutions will place Myanmar on the right track to meeting all other SDGs. However, the military institution and its entrenched culture of impunity across all levels are generating total lack of rule of law in the country. The dismantling of the rule of law by the military junta is posing a serious threat to the regional peace and stability as the drug, human trafficking and transnational organized crimes continue to flourish.

It is crystal clear that ending this inhumane military junta will bring Myanmar back to the right track of the realization of SDGs.

In this regard, I urge the international community to support the Myanmar people's efforts to hold the military junta accountable for its international crimes; to eradicate the military dictatorship; to restore democracy and build a federal democratic union in Myanmar.

I thank you.
