



# MYANMAR

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin  
Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
at the  
Secretary General's Climate Summit

69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
(New York, 23 September 2014)

**Myanmar National Statement  
delivered by  
H.E. U Wanna Maung Lwin,  
Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
at the UN Climate Summit at the 69<sup>th</sup> UNGA  
New York, 23 September 2014**

**Madame Chairperson,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

1. I have the great pleasure to deliver a national statement on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at this historic United Nations Climate Summit. I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his wise initiative in organizing this important event for our planet and the mankind.

2. This gathering of the world leaders, partners from business and civil society accords us the opportunity to announce their vision and actions to contribute to global efforts to address this clear and present threat of climate change.

**Madame Chairperson,**

3. Climate change is not an issue for dispute anymore. Its threat has become a reality. This was testified by the frequency and magnitude of widespread occurrences of natural disasters in many parts of the world. The impacts from climate change are reaching across the planet. It touches upon all ways of life. Most importantly, the risk it poses to the world's food supply in coming decades is alarming. Our inaction today will cost more than the cost of action to build more

resilient development. We must act now to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience in order to leave a cleaner and healthier world for our future generations.

**Madame Chairperson,**

4. My own country, Myanmar is also among the vulnerable countries to climate change, as it has a long coastal zone. Impact of climate change in Myanmar is evidenced by a shortening of the monsoon period with extreme rain and high temperature. Frequent occurrence of floods, cyclone and drought in many parts of the country has a negative impact on agriculture, energy supply and livelihood. Myanmar also has the tragic experience of Cyclone Nargis in 2008 causing loss of about 138,000 lives and serious damage to infrastructures and local livelihoods systems.

5. With this experience of natural calamities, Myanmar fully shares the concern over the threat of climate change. As such, the Government of Myanmar seriously addresses environmental problems including climate change mitigation and adaptation. Recognizing the importance of creating harmony and balance between economic development and environmental sustainability, we are integrating environmental considerations into the economic development planning process.

6. One of the concrete measures to combat climate change is our Government's dedicated efforts to expand reserved forests and public protected

forest, restoration of degraded forests and watershed conservation. We have implemented a nation-wide programme of afforestation and reforestation. Myanmar was among the twelve nations that took part in the Asia Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank. The inventory of greenhouse gas emissions taken under this strategy confirms that Myanmar has greater sink than sources of carbon emission. The base line projection of the National Greenhouse Inventory 2020 also shows that the forestry sector will continue to be a significant sink in Myanmar in the future.

7. A 30-year Forestry Sector Master Plan is being implemented to expand Reserved Forests and Public Protected Forest up to 30% of the country's total area, and protected areas up to 10% of it. Currently, Myanmar has 39 protect areas of diverse ecosystems covering 5.6% of the total country area, including six designated as ASEAN Heritage Parks. We believe that these practical measures of forest conservation and sustainable forest management will contribute to mitigate global climate change through enlargement of sinks reducing emissions. In this context, Myanmar is also developing a national strategy and has commenced a pilot project under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus Programme (REDD+ Programme).

**Madame Chairperson,**

8. At the regional level, Myanmar is working together with its fellow members of the ASEAN in addressing the climate change issue. An ASEAN Climate Change Initiative to response to climate change and address its impacts had been

envisioned in the Blueprint of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community of the Declaration on the roadmap for ASEAN Community 2009-2015.

9. The ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change adopted in 2010 recognizes the vulnerability of the region, and shares the vision for an ASEAN Community resilient to climate change. It also supports efforts to combat the climate change with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

10. ASEAN's strategic objectives for addressing climate change in the region include better regional cooperation, seeking climate friendly technology and enhancing research and contribution to the relevant global negotiations.

11. In concluding, I would like to express that with the enhanced technology and financial support, Myanmar stands ready to join the international community in its efforts for the successful conclusion of the negotiation process of a meaningful global agreement in 2015. Time is not in our favour. This is not the time for argument, but for a united action. Together, we must translate our political will into action to provide a better place for our succeeding generation.

I thank you.

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