

**Country Statement to be delivered by Mr. Kyaw Swe Lin, Director
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Irrigation**

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
at CFS High Level Special Event on Strengthening Global Governance of
Food Security and Nutrition**

13th October, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to report the country statement in this CFS High Level Special Event on Strengthening Global Governance of Food Security and Nutrition focusing and seeking on the global sustainable development agenda respectively on countrywide food security and nutrition policy response to the hunger and malnutrition pandemic, guiding on food systems.

On behalf of Myanmar Government and our people, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to FAO for supporting Myanmar in the area of food security and agriculture development. I also would like to express my honors to the organizers and representatives gather here to discuss and share the challenge upon global pandemic and food security and nutrition.

On this great occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to brief the development of agriculture sector of Myanmar, which is a high priority for our Nation. Agriculture sector contributes 28 percent of total

national GDP and about 70 percent of rural population relies on crops, livestock and fishery activities for their livelihoods and incomes. To ensure the improvement of their livelihoods and the development of agriculture sector, Ministry has laid down its vision to 2030 and Myanmar Agriculture Development Strategy (2019 to 2023) has developed to implement food security and nutrition as a national development agenda. Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and Rural Development Strategic Framework (RDS) were also adopted as gaining ground and accelerated to Nation's food productivity, food security and nutrition, food safety, crop diversification, precise food and agriculture system.

All of development programs and projects either funded by government, loans or international aids are also gearing towards food security and nutrition. So far, we are in process of agriculture and food system transformation by encouraging farmers and private sector to bring synergy for crop- livestock and agro-processing industry. The Ministry has been paying more attention on increasing safe and quality production intends to contribute regional and global food security.

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With regards to Myanmar's food system, transition to a modern food system will require effective measures to anticipate and mitigate emerging risks, especially those relating the climate change, biosecurity, environmental impact, and food safety. However, fulfillments of global commitment on SDGs are more critical time for us, and currently Myanmar is underinvestment in the area of food processing and food

industry development and we need to improve such prioritized area as well.

As we all aware that , most of the countries including Myanmar suffering disruption in functioning of food supply chains as negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and eventually, relief and recovery plans and actions are more considerable for us to endeavor. Thus, Government of Myanmar gave high attention to mitigate economic impacts of COVID-19 and released COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), there, relevant programs relating to support farmers, small Agri-Processors, Agri-Business and cash for work are being undertaken by the Ministry and with assistance of UN Agencies, Development Partners. With the fullest cooperation of UN FAO, Rapid Assessment of COVID 19 on the Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fishing Sectors in 5 states and regions of Myanmar was conducted to recommend suitable relief and recovery programs.

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Since from the pandemic declaration from now, Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Group, chaired by the Union Minister of the Ministry, has been conducting impact of COVID 19 monthly surveys and giving recommendation to Government. Most of the recommendations such as support to SMEs, support storage facilities and building climate resilience, tax relief for agribusiness firms, adjustments to loan repayment, more digital solution, and cash for work program for unemployed are acceptable and applicable ways for us to response.

We strongly recommend that more room must be opened in digital technologies for building sustainable and transform resilient food systems, especially in this critical time of food security alarm for Global populations. Conventional ways itself are not sufficient to recover the challenges in efficient and effective manner. On the other hand, digital agriculture is also new area for most of the developing countries which needs to be strengthening in proper way enabling to most benefit.

Before ending my statement, I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO and CFS Chair Person for convening this session to address the issue of global agenda on food security and nutrition. I am looking forward to getting continuous support from you to help our country to address food security and nutrition and to overcome challenges upon pandemic disease. Also, I believe that this event will be able to bring the pathways for the people of the world through policy options, institutional arrangement and capacity building aimed at shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient way, taking into consideration the global warming, climate change and natural disaster and unprecedented health crisis.

Thank you for your kind attention.