

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY MYANMAR  
DELEGATION LEADER AT THE WORLD SUMMIT ON  
FOOD SECURITY IN ROME, 16-18 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and  
Gentlemen,**

**On behalf of the Myanmar delegation and on my  
own behalf, may I extend my warmest  
congratulations to the esteemed chairperson, on  
being unanimously elected to preside over this  
August assembly.**

**Today, technological advances have provided the  
means to supply the world not only with safe food,  
but better food. All the same, the need to produce  
enough food to feed an ever-growing population  
also escalates with every passing day. Agricultural  
development programs and economic stimulus  
packages for the most vulnerable rural poor in the  
developing countries need to be urgently and  
efficiently implemented.**

**The situation of agricultural commodity trade in recent year is also not very encouraging. Both developed and developing countries should continue to establish food and agricultural trade policies conducive to fostering world food security. There is an urgent need to reach a rule-based international trading system that is fair and equitable to promote agricultural production and productivity.**

**Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

**During the past twelve years after the world food summit, Myanmar has managed to increase the volume of food and export of agricultural and fisheries commodities, raising the real income of the farming communities. During the period, land utilization and irrigation made tangible advances. Particularly government's investment in irrigation facilities during the past two decades has paid off by enabling farmers to engage in multiple cropping despite the occurrence of unfavourable conditions**

**caused by climate change. Since 1988, 227 irrigation dams and 322 pump irrigation stations, covering an effective area of 1.37 million hectares, were established almost entirely with the country's available financial and technical resources. The irrigation ratio has increased from 12.6 per cent to 17 per cent and achieving cropping intensity 171.1 per cent.**

**The production and yield of cereals, pulses and other cash crops also progressed appreciably. During the last twelve year period, the total annual average area of about 17.2 million hectares were cultivated by 5.05 million farm families and of which 35 per cent is farmed under paddy. The area under paddy increased by about 2.22 million hectares and with production reaching to 32.6 million metric tons in 2008-2009, an increase of over 14.9 million metric tons.**

**Similarly, performances of the livestock and fisheries sector during this period were highly**

**contributory in meeting domestic demand and exports. In particular, fisheries production from marine and aqua culture increased substantially reaching to 157.6 million metric tons with the rapid growth of private sector investment.**

**The government of Myanmar has invested in rural infrastructure and sustainable forestry and fish resource management. At the same time farming techniques such as conservation agriculture, water harvesting and use of groundwater are promoted to suit the conditions arising from climate change.**

**Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

**We fully support renewing and strengthening the committee on world food security (CFS) as a governance of world food security and establishment of a high-level panel of experts in the framework of the renewed CFS. But these must be built upon existing mechanisms and avoid creation of new structures.**

**We all are here today not just to draw attention to the seriousness of the challenges that we are facing in eliminating food insecurity. We are also here to re-affirm our collective commitment to achieve the objectives and action plans of previous summits on food security. Our pledge this time to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth by 2025 will only be achieved by taking decisive actions and making concerted efforts now.**

**Myanmar remains committed to help secure sufficient, safe and nutritious food supplies for a growing population so that all people in the country and in the world can enjoy the right to food, which is the most fundamental of all human rights.**

**Thank you.**