

**Country Statement to be delivered by Mr. Kyaw Swe Lin, Director General,
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

**at Forty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security on Making a
Difference in Food Security and Nutrition**

8th February, 2021

Good Afternoon,

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

First of all, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to provide the country statement in this Forty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security on Making a Difference in 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 express my honors to the 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 virtually to discuss and share the challenge upon global pandemic and food security and nutrition.

With regard to Myanmar, Agriculture sector, which is a high priority for our Nation 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 relevant strategies, practices and action plan to implement food security and nutrition as a national development agenda.

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 trying to prepare the path way for 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.

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

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 National Dialogues Convenor of Myanmar, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is participating in the preparation for the Food Systems Summit 2021 that is a critical part of the Decade of Action for the SDG delivery between now and 2030. Currently, we are planning to engage different in-country stakeholders in the process of Food Systems Summit Dialogues to explore how our future food systems relate to the full range of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And the Ministry is preparing to implement the Nutrition Sector Reform Contract (NSRC) funded by development partners for the enhancing rural nutrition programme. It is aimed to reduce all forms of malnutrition, improve accessing diversified and safety foods and portable water of rural people with seven specific indicators for five years term (2021-2025).

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

To protect, mitigate and respond to the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of Myanmar has already lunched CERP (Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan) for supporting the nation in the activities to support farmers, small Agri-processors, seed farmers and agri-business for planting and income retention were implemented as immediate action to bounce back from pandemic hit. These activities 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.

In addition, the Government of Myanmar is also drafting Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) to response the economic impacts of the beyond

the COVID-19 Pandemic. Under MERRP, our Ministry will emphasize to promote inclusive rural growth through Agricultural Development. Specific action plan will be formulated and carried out in accordingly.

Moreover, I strongly agreed to perform joint action to overcome the impact of pandemic and climate change effects all over the world and to develop climate-resilience food system as early as possible.

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

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. And also I believe that this session will be able to pave the way for the sustainable food security and nutrition and the Government of Myanmar will actively and closely cooperate with FAO and Member States in future cooperation.

Thank You!