

**Country Statement by H.E. U Myint Hlaing,
Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
at the 39th Session of FAO conference**

Rome, Italy

9 June 2015

Good Morning!

Mr. Chairman, Head of States, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Myanmar delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you for being elected as Chairman of this conference.
2. In addition, I would also like to honor and congratulate the Director General of FAO, Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva for being re-elected as the Director General of FAO for second term for his outstanding leadership. I deeply believe that he has been re-elected because of his rich experiences and the achievements he has made for food security and poverty reduction which are vital for all mankind.
3. With all my pleasure, on behalf of my country and my government, I would like to appreciate and support the theme of this year, **“Breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”**. It is a very practically meaningful and appropriate theme that will support the vision and mission of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were laid down by the United Nations. Our Nation, Myanmar is ready to cooperate actively together with other member states under the leadership of FAO.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished guests,

4. It is my pleasure to brief the achievement of Myanmar in eradication of hunger and poverty activities in cooperation with other member states in the region, FAO and other UN agencies.
5. During the term of new Myanmar democracy Government led by H. E. U TheinSein, which is elected by the people, the development of agriculture sector which is depended by 70% of the rural people, improvement of the socio-economic status of farmers, and food and nutrition security of the people in the territory are being emphasized.

6. As a national interest, the Government is focusing on planning and implementation of the supply chain management, from production of good quality high yielding seedsto marketing of quality products, in favor of small holder farmers who are producing food for all people in the country.

7. Keeping with the objectives, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has successfully launched "**Zero Hunger Challenge-ZHC**" on last year World Food Day, October 16, 2014. The Honorable Vice President, Union Ministers and Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific FAO regional office unanimously supported to implement the five pillars of ZHC laid down by FAO.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. As you may aware, we have continuously put our utmost efforts to secure sustainable agriculture and food system in Myanmar. **Based on FAO's most recent estimate, we were able to make outstanding progress by reducing the prevalence of undernourishment from 62.6% in 1990-92 to 14.2% in 2014-2016. That means the number of undernourished people has been reduced from 26.8 million in 1990-92 to 7.7 million in 2014-16. We were also able to meet more ambitious World Food Summit target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half the value of 1990-92.**

11. In conclusion, I would like to express that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will actively and closely cooperate with Member States for the brighter future of the global people, based on the outcomes of the conference derived from the valuable discussion, inputs, wisdom and rich experiences of the delegates, professionals and scientists in line with the concrete missions of FAO, let us work together closely to meet our Zero Hunger targets for our future generations. I believe that we have the will and we can do it.

Thank you very much.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation





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