Mr. Chairman,
Executive Secretary, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and indeed a personal honour to deliver this country statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of this 77th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Myanmar fully recognises the important contribution of UNESCAP toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. And, we also note the significant role being played by UNESCAP and the contribution that the Commission has made to improving prosperity within our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report, 2021, we regret to note that our region is not on track to achieve any of the sustainable development Goals by 2030. This is even before the onset of COVID-19. Over the past year, many countries have faced a deep slowdown in economic growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on us, individually and collectively. It magnified existing challenges and shedding light on geographic inequality and economic disparities.

There is no doubt that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reversing the hard-won socio-economic gains. Consequently, the socio-economic crisis brought on by pandemic remains at risk to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We need to expand our efforts to minimize the negative impacts on trade and investment arising from the pandemic to facilitate an inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic recovery. Moreover, we reiterate and garner strong support for the rules-based multilateral trading, including WTO rules, and work closely with key multilateral economic institutions.

We would also like to highlight that digital economy plays an important role in pandemic prevention and control. The digital economy should be promoted through the use of digital technologies and ecommerce to sustain economic activities and facilitate economic recovery.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Myanmar is implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) which was launched in 2018. It includes a set of clear, coherent, reinforcing strategies and action plans that will take us forward the SDG achievement.
The Myanmar Development Assistance Policy (DAP) was updated in September, 2020 which is a tool for better and easier process than before for the flow of the international development assistance to Myanmar.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar is undertaking a two-pronged approach consisting of performing the preventive and control measures and facilitating access to remedy for the economy damaged by this pandemic with added speed and possible ways.

The government responses to the crisis through the COVID-19 fund and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) which includes measures for relief and resilient recovery. Moreover, the Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) has been already drafted, which focuses on reforming the five areas such as rules and regulations, financial, tax, trade and digital economy.

The government is constantly monitoring and conducting COVID-19 prevention and treatment undertakings for the public, and it now has a three-stage priority programme for giving the vaccine for over 15 million people.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the government has mobilized over 4 trillion Myanmar kyats, 3.4% of Gross Domestic Product, as the fiscal stimulus measures.

Myanmar, as an ASEAN Member State, is closely cooperating for timely implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) initiatives which serves as a consolidated strategy for ASEAN to emerge more resilient and stronger from the COVID-19 crisis.

Regarding the Myanmar’s participation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Plan (RCEP) Agreement, we expect to send the instrument of ratification to the other signatory States at the early May 2021.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The State Administration Council (SAC) has declared the State of Emergency for the country and taken over the State duty on 1 February 2021 in accordance with State Constitution 2008.

The SAC is paving towards the State peace and prosperity through five programmes; the first one is reforming the Union Election Commission, Second; continuing the preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic with added momentum and effective ways and Third; remedying the economy damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic with possible ways, Fourth; carrying out the works to obtain eternal peace throughout the nation, according to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and Firth; handing over of the State power to a winning party according to the democratic norms after holding a free and fair multiparty democracy general election.

Moreover, the SAC has already declared the continuation of repatriation process for the displaced persons in Bangladesh in accord with the bilateral agreement.

Despite the rapidly evolving political context, we reiterate Myanmar’s commitment to honoring existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements and other international obligations based on the principle of inclusive and leaving no-one behind.
The government will continue to implement the commitments as agreed in the regional and sub-regional economic integration such as ASEAN, GMS, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and participate in the UN regional program such as UNESCAP and South-South cooperation program.

We should come together to strengthen regional cooperation towards building back better from crisis, thereby accelerating actions to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We strongly believe that the incessant relationship and support of all development partners including UN and international organizations is substantial for our country in order to achieve our continuous implementation of SDG goals, MSDP, CERP and MERP.

In conclusion, Myanmar calls for continuation of all development activities in Myanmar, particularly on the areas of humanitarian assistance, health, education, rural development, gender equality, reducing hate speech, and infrastructure development without any delay.

Thank you for your attention.