

Statement of the UN country team in Myanmar

Delivered by Janet Jackson

The United Nations Country Team congratulates the Government of Myanmar in successfully arranging and conducting the second Development Cooperation Forum. The title says it all and these two days have concentrated on ways to gain more in terms of acceleration, progress inclusiveness and coordination on many fronts. The UN has had a long relationship with the Government in Myanmar and this has evolved considerably over recent years. The UNCT was privileged to play a key role in assisting and guiding the Government in arrangements for the first Development Cooperation Forum that was held in early 2013.

On all levels, this 2nd Development Cooperation Forum was better than that of last year. It was more inclusive of all important stakeholders and this enriched the discussions. The confidence of all participants and the quality of the presentations were also more strategically oriented. There is also a palpable sense that we all know each other better, trust each other more and that we are all working towards the same objectives.

On recommendation for next year's forum would be to organize the parallel sessions according to the sector working groups. This may make the forum even more useful and it would encourage more sector-wide analysis, prioritization and coordination. We would welcome more emphasis in a number of social issues, for example gender, youth, health and education. We encourage the Government to ensure that these areas receive a greater portion of the government's budget allocations.

We have seen reform take its course in formidable ways. The UNCT looks forward also to greater emphasis being put on government capacity development, in particular national execution, where there is need for strengthened transparency and accountability, as well as giving attention to substance as much as to form. We urge more tangible engagement beyond the national level in terms of policy, planning, programming and the setting of priorities. In its commitment to building functional systems, we encourage consumer and different community engagement in issues related to different aspects of development, most notably in the social sector so that the reform benefits different groups of people. Involving communities is a way of building trust and confidence, fostering a culture of peace, reaching sustainable development and the respect of human rights for all people, no matter who they are or what they do.

The UNCT looks forward soon to working with government and other actors in developing the UNCT's first United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Myanmar. Again our congratulations and thank to the Government for having organized a successful forum.

Thank you for your attention.