



**H.E. Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister  
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, January 27-28, 2014**

**Closing Remarks**

Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished guests – friends and colleagues

At the outset of this Forum, President Thein Sein noted that through the four phases of reform, encompassing political reforms and peace, social and economic reforms, administrative reforms, and private sector promotion, the development process has begun to gain momentum. Nevertheless, he stressed that further acceleration of Myanmar's development will require effective collaboration and joint efforts among all stakeholder groups. In this regard, he acknowledged the key role that Myanmar's development partners play, and hence underlined the importance of effective cooperation between the Government and the development partners.

I think his observation set the main theme for our productive deliberations over the past day and a half.

We all share a sense that much has been achieved in laying the foundation not just for inclusive growth but also for effective development cooperation. We should all take some satisfaction in these achievements. But we also agreed that there is still much to be done, especially in accelerating the implementation of reforms at the practical levels, as well as the implementation of development programs and projects. That may not demand the kind of political courage required for adopting bold reform measures. Nevertheless, it will require a great deal of hard work, collaboration, and persistence. I think we have come to see that this is where we are.

During our discussions, we have identified a number of constraints we need to address. We did not find a well-articulated solution to each of them, but we have agreed on a joint path toward doing so. I think this process between the Government and the development partners, supported by inputs from other stakeholder groups, will be a very powerful effort in enhancing the effectiveness of development cooperation over the coming year. I expect that this process will be reflected in the Nay Pyi Taw Accord Action Plan that is to be agreed shortly.

Important as it is, solving practical problems alone will not get us far. We need a clear vision and a coherent strategy for development. We have seen them in the National Comprehensive

Development Plan that is reaching advanced stages of preparation. I believe we all leave this Forum, knowing that Myanmar will be guided by an effective long-term plan.

This was the second time we have organized a Development Cooperation Forum. My colleagues were much more familiar with what to do to prepare for it and how to manage the actual event. I believe the staff did not have quite as many sleepless nights as they did last year. Still, many of you would know from your own experience, organizing a meeting like this requires huge amounts of work. So, please allow me to pause for a moment and thank staff across all of the Ministries and various levels of government in Myanmar that have contributed to the success of this event. I really appreciate your dedication.

I would like to thank you, all the participants, for your contributions to this Forum. Of course, there is much more to be done after the Forum, but I know I can count on active collaboration from all of you.

Myanmar is at a point of ‘developmental take-off’—a stage of acceleration in the development process. But for that to happen, we need to build well on the solid foundation we now have, through **effective and inclusive cooperation**, both within Myanmar and between Myanmar and its international development partner.

Thank you.