Myanmar Climate Change Policy

2019
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is firmly engaged in a historic process of development, democratization, justice and peace. However, the ability of our country to reach the targets under the Sustainable Development Plan, National Comprehensive Plan, and our peace efforts could be faced an obstacle by observed and future changes in climate.

In the last six decades the country has recorded increased intensity of floods, cyclones, and droughts which have caused immense loss of lives and suffering, damage to infrastructure and assets and economic impacts. In addition, more silent, yet very disruptive, effects of climate change are eroding our society’s wellbeing and productive capacities. In particular, the shrinking of...
the Monsoon season, the increase in average annual temperatures and the salinization of land in coastal areas are reducing the productivity of agriculture, and consequently livelihood opportunities, which induce many to migrate within Myanmar and abroad. Climate change effects also provoke displacement, both as a result of sudden disasters or, for instance, the loss of land to sea-level rise and erosion, which heighten the potential for conflict and tensions among communities.

All these effects will intensify, according to the latest scientific projections. We must therefore all strive to build climate resilience and a low-carbon society urgently. To this end, we have started to increase our awareness at national, sub-national and local levels on the required adaptation to climate change, while improving our scientific research capacities with new studies and projections and contributing to the global effort with the signature of the historic Paris Agreement in 2015. We have set up institutional coordination mechanisms as well as new policy instruments and capacities. At local levels, initial adaptation measures have started to emerge. All these efforts deserve recognition.
However, we must also realize the extent of the challenge ahead and that to our action must be coordinated, measurable and sustained over time in order to overcome it. Not only the Government of the country, but all institutions, the civil society, the NGOs, the productive forces and sectors, communities and people must contribute to building a resilient country.

The *Myanmar Climate Change Policy* and the related *Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030)* as a guiding policy and strategic framework are hereby adopted precisely to ensure that we take concrete, coordinated and sustained action over the long-term to transform Myanmar into a low-carbon and resilient country, which is able to develop in a sustainable manner.

I urge the Government and all Citizens of Myanmar to join hands and share responsibilities in this important endeavor to mainstream the goals of Myanmar Climate Change Policy and Strategy into all sectors at levels of National, State and Regions’ development plans, as a matter of national priority.

H. E. Win Myint  
President  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has the overarching priority of social and economic development of the country and all of its people. Observed and projected impacts of climate change threaten the achievement of this priority and can potentially reverse Myanmar’s recent social and economic development gains.

2. Myanmar is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and highly exposed to severe weather events such as heavy rains, storm surges, severe droughts, floods, cyclones and landslides which have increased in intensity and frequency over the last 60 years. The increasing severity of weather events and changing weather patterns can be attributed to climate change. Myanmar has also observed the effects of changing climatic patterns on productive systems, in particular in the agriculture sector.

3. Findings from the international scientific community, notably the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirm that average global temperatures are increasing as a result of the release of anthropogenic greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and project that this trend is likely to continue and increase in the coming decades.
4. In Myanmar, the most recent climate change projections confirm these increasing and changing temperature and precipitation trends; and related events such as heat waves, droughts and floods; the likelihood of intense tropical cyclones; sea level rise; salinity intrusion; a further shrinking monsoon season among other effects.

5. These effects will likely continue to impact all vital sectors of Myanmar's society and economy and threaten the social and economic development of the country, as it remains vulnerable due to the heavy dependency on climate-sensitive sectors for livelihoods. Also, millions of Myanmar’s people are concentrated in regions naturally exposed to severe climatic events, in particular the Central Dry Zone Area, the Delta Region and the Coastal Areas. People living in Hilly regions and Plain lands will also be diversely affected by several effects of climate change.

6. Changes in climate will potentially result in loss of lives, assets and economic capacities, resulting from both extreme rapid and slow-onset disasters, and the effects of changes on agriculture, water availability, natural resources and land.
For instance, continued reduction of productivity on agriculture in Central Dry Zone Area may reduce contributions to GDP growth and affect the livelihoods of both small–firm households and agricultural labourers, thus fuelling migration. Sea level rise and salinization will affect Coastal and Delta communities’ livelihood and assets, and potentially lead to conflict over land and resources.

7. Therefore, failing to mainstream climate change into Myanmar’s development agenda will prevent the country from achieving its social, economic and environmental sustainable development objectives. Building resilience to climate change is a necessary and urgent endeavour for the country to be able to fulfil its socio–economic development aspirations.

8. Recognizing these circumstances, Myanmar requires a robust policy instrument that ensures all sectoral investments and development plans fully acknowledge and address the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Policy Approach

8. Recognizing these circumstances, Myanmar requires a robust policy instrument that ensures all sectoral investments and development plans fully acknowledge and address the challenges posed by a changing climate.
9. To this end, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

(a) Recalling the pertinent provisions of the Constitution, National Comprehensive Development Plan, Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, Myanmar National Sustainable Development Strategy, and other relevant documents such as the National Environmental Policy, and other relevant legislation and policies;

(b) Recognising the need for future policies and legislation to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and be consistent with this Policy;

(c) Remaining committed to Myanmar's overarching goal of striving for the ultimate benefit and prosperity of Myanmar's people, and ensuring to the greatest possible extent that the quality of life of the people of Myanmar and opportunities for sustainable development are not compromised;

(d) Reaffirming its priority to protect and conserve Myanmar's natural environment, and recognising the intrinsic value of the environment and the benefits it provides to people, especially in the face of increased climate change impacts;
(e) Remaining committed to protecting Myanmar’s water resources, recognizing the fundamental role of water to life, livelihoods, sustainable development, human dignity as well as social, economic and cultural values, and that climate change will affect its quality and availability;

(f) Noting the findings of the scientific community, including the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that global temperatures are increasing due to the release of anthropogenic “greenhouse gases” (GHGs) into the atmosphere and predictions that this trend of warming of the atmosphere is likely to continue and increase;

(g) Noting also the domestically, regionally and globally observed and projected short and long-term impacts of climate change in Myanmar;

(h) Noting with serious concern that Myanmar is disproportionately impacted by both rapid and slow-onset effects of climate change, due to its multi-dimensional and acute vulnerability and limited capacity to respond and cope;
(i) Concerned that climate change has significant implications on Myanmar’s achievement of social and economic development;

(j) Recognising that climate change exacerbates inequalities and can fuel conflict;

(k) Recognising that women and girls in Myanmar are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts due to their roles and responsibilities and their unequal access to resources, opportunities and rights, and that their knowledge, experience, participation and leadership at all levels are vital for developing effective climate change adaptation and mitigation responses;

(l) Recognising the need to take urgent action to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change;

(m) Emphasising the need to take short, medium and long-term actions to respond to Myanmar’s continuously changing climate and evolving social and economic circumstances, building progressively on previous actions and continuously learning from experiences;
(n) Recognising that effective planning and action needs to be taken at the national, sub-national and local levels, by all segments of society, including the private sector and civil society, and requires robust climate risk information as well as wide coordination and strong partnership across sectors and ownership by the whole of government, including States and Regions;

(o) Recognising that taking ambitious mitigation actions, despite Myanmar’s negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, is needed to achieve low-carbon development and green growth on a path to sustainable development;

(p) Reaffirming the need to work within the framework of international and regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);
(q) Reaffirming Myanmar’s commitment to the United Nations sustainable development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015, and its principle to leave no one behind, and that action on climate change needs to be consistent with national social, economic and environmental development goals;

(r) Affirming its commitments to cooperate under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, Doha Amendment and the Paris Agreement and participate in future global decision making processes, to the fullest extent possible;

(s) Noting its commitment to prepare, communicate and maintain periodic nationally determined contributions to the global effort to tackle climate change, and report on their actions as appropriate under the UN climate change process;

adopts this policy in order to guide national action to address climate change.

(ง) ယခုစာမျက်နာ့ကိုလောင်းကြည့်ရှုရန်အတွက် နိုင်ငံတကာ အဖျားကြည့်ရှုရန် ပြောဆိုရန် လိုအပ်သော အကောင်အထည်များပါဝင်သော ပြုလုပ်ရာအစီအစဉ်ကို ပေးပွဲပါသည်။

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10. Myanmar's vision is to be a climate-resilient, low-carbon society that is sustainable, prosperous and inclusive, for the wellbeing of present and future generations.

11. The purpose of this Policy is to provide long term direction and guidance to:

   (a) Take and promote climate change action on adaptation and mitigation in Myanmar;

   (b) Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations into Myanmar's national priorities and across all levels and sectors in an iterative and progressive manner; and

   (c) Take decisions to create and maximise opportunities for sustainable, low carbon, climate resilient development, ensuring benefits for all.
12. In actions to achieve the purpose of this Policy, Myanmar will be guided, *inter alia,* by the following guiding principles:

(a) **Sustainable development** – Develop sustainably to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, by ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future and a fair and equitable society;

(b) **Precaution** – Take cost-effective measures to avoid, minimise and protect from environmentally harmful consequences where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage even if there is a lack of full scientific certainty;

(c) **Prevention** – Take anticipatory action to prevent or minimise environmental damage before it occurs by avoiding, prohibiting or controlling threatening activities;
(d) Environmental integrity – Promote, protect and conserve the natural environment and recognise its complete and intrinsic value, whether tangible or non-tangible, economic or non-economic, to the natural, cultural and spiritual heritage of Myanmar;

(e) Shared responsibility and cooperation – Encourage, support and embrace the common and shared responsibility of all people for the protection, conservation, and equitable sharing of benefits and resources of the environment, and encourage wide cooperation across sectors and stakeholders at all levels, including the private sector.

(f) Inclusiveness – Engage all people at all levels in decision-making and action, by supporting and embracing their diverse social, economic and cultural perspectives, participation and contributions without discrimination, particularly with respect to gender, ethnicity and age, in order to equitably share the benefits and opportunities of climate change adaptation, mitigation and low-carbon, climate-resilient development;

[15]
(g) **Good governance** – Adopt transparent, participatory, and responsive processes to ensure that decision-making at all levels is inclusive, equitable, and accountable to all people in Myanmar, in accordance with the rule of law;

(h) **Climate justice and equity** – Promote and protect the rights of the people of Myanmar, in particular the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised segments of society, including indigenous peoples, all ethnic groups, local communities, women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities to live in a healthy environment and a fair, equitable and sustainable society;

(i) **Gender equality and women’s empowerment** – Promote and protect gender equality and women’s equal rights through strengthening gender–responsive climate change policy concerning adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building, and ensuring full and equal participation of women in decision-making.
13. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will take sector-relevant measures to implement this Policy and achieve its purpose by taking the following actions primarily in the six sectoral clusters listed below:

(a) Food and water security

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar’s national policies on food and water integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;

ii. Maintain growth and productivity of food systems, including in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors, through low-carbon, climate-resilient and gender-responsive actions in order to ensure food security and protect the livelihoods of the people of
iii. Promote and provide opportunities, by facilitating innovative practices and the use of new technologies, for resource-efficient and low-carbon approaches in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors;

iv. Adopt and implement efficient water management and governance practices in Myanmar, including through technologies for water conservation and other alternatives to flood irrigation systems and other appropriate systems, particularly in climate-vulnerable States and Regions, including mountainous areas, flood-prone areas, delta regions and dry zones;

v. Ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management and other appropriate means are taken into account to ensure the sustainability of water resources, including through the adoption of adaptation strategies to increase water storage and watershed restoration and preservation;
(b) Healthy ecosystems

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar's national polices on environment, land use and forestry, including Myanmar's National Environmental Policy integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;

ii. Promote sustainable natural resource management, preserve, conserve, and rehabilitate biodiversity and natural ecosystems in order to ensure the provision of ecosystem services, recognising their contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, the co-benefits they generate to the people and Myanmar's high dependence on the quality and availability of ecosystem services;

iii. Adopt environmentally sound technologies and good management practices, including ecosystem-based adaptation interventions, to improve and maintain the health and resilience of all ecosystems, including forest, water, land, coastal ecosystems and air quality in the face of future climate change impacts;
iv. Enhance greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs, and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable management of forests and land use planning, based on the best available science;

(c) Low-carbon and resilient growth

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar’s Green Economy Framework and energy policies integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations, are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy, and encourage public–private partnerships to support a green economy;

ii. Ensure that the energy, transport and industry sectors, including infrastructure, are well-integrated among each other, reliable, sustainable and resilient to current and future climate change impacts, recognising that they are vital to Myanmar’s economic growth;
iii. Decouple Myanmar’s continued growth from increasing greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the global climate change mitigation effort through sustainable, low-carbon energy, transport, industrial, and waste management systems, while ensuring that Myanmar’s social and economic development needs are met;

iv. Promote and prioritise sustainable and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, in order to meet Myanmar’s growing energy needs and ensure energy security in a low-carbon manner;

v. Ensure equitable access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all as a pathway to inclusive and sustainable development and eradicating poverty;

vi. Promote sustainable natural resource extraction through transparent and responsible investments which are consistent with climate change adaptation and mitigation priorities, while generating local employment and economic benefits and protecting the environment and public health;
vii. Ensure that urban and inter-city transportation networks and infrastructure are sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient for all modes of transport, in particular for mass transit;

viii. Increase the productivity and resource-efficiency of the industrial sector, an important sector for Myanmar’s economy, through low-carbon growth and by developing competitive and innovative green industries, recognising the relative importance of this sector for Myanmar’s economy, including its potential for job creation;

**(d) Resilient urban and rural settlements**

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar's national, sub-national, and local policies and plans on urban and rural settlements, including national building regulations, township and local development plans and land-use plans, integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;

(22) **Resilient urban and rural settlements**

(23) **Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar’s national, sub-national, and local policies and plans on urban and rural settlements, including national building regulations, township and local development plans and land-use plans, integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;**
ii. Ensure that human settlements are planned and developed in a climate-resilient manner and incentivise low-carbon approaches, while promoting long-term inclusivity, liveability, economic development and a high quality of life in rural and urban areas, recognising the interdependencies between urban and rural areas and the potential impact of climate change on rural-urban migration, food security, water supply and livelihoods;

iii. Ensure the active involvement of city, township and village stakeholders in identifying climate change challenges at local level, and devise plans, strategies and practical actions to adapt to climate change, mitigate its effects, and develop in a sustainable low-carbon manner;

iv. Ensure that territorial spatial planning at regional, district, city, township and village level fully addresses current and future climate-related risks and opportunities, and regularly assess and mitigate these risks in a timely and equitable manner through inclusive and participatory assessment and planning processes which take into account and strengthen local knowledge and capacities, including in land-use planning, rural and urban planning and city or township specific disaster risk management plans and actions;
(e) Human wellbeing

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar’s national policies on health, disaster risk management and social protection integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;

ii. Ensure that the national health system takes steps to be aware of and respond in a timely and equitable manner to new and increasing health risks and vulnerability arising from slow and rapid-onset impacts of climate change;

iii. Take actions to scale up and strengthen disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction systems to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to increased risk of climate-related natural hazards and to prevent and reduce loss and damage, at all levels;
iv. Take actions to scale up and strengthen social protection for all people, and in particular for the most vulnerable, to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to slow and rapid-onset impacts of climate change;

(f) Knowledge, awareness and research

i. Ensure that actions undertaken under Myanmar's national policies on education, technology and training integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations and are complementary to and/or support actions under this Policy;

ii. Ensure that the education sector and its physical infrastructure are made resilient to climate change impacts, recognising that climate change has direct and indirect effects on social and economic development in Myanmar;

iii. Recognise the need to develop, acquire and foster application of technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and ensure that technologies for all sectors are made resilient to climate change impacts;
iv. Take actions to raise awareness around climate change of all people on climate change vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, low-carbon and climate-resilient development and sustainability through formal and non-formal education at all levels, in particular at the primary and secondary education levels, and through the media;

v. Promote access to climate change knowledge, awareness and training for all stakeholders, including decision-makers at all levels;

vi. Ensure equitable access to education for all as a pathway toward inclusive and sustainable development, recognising the impacts of climate change on education particularly in rural communities;

vii. Incentivise investment for the use of innovations and technologies in Myanmar that enable low-carbon climate-resilient development, and support local innovation and solutions, recognising that climate change adaptation and mitigation require developments in all aspects of education, science and technology;
14. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will take overarching and cross-cutting measures to implement the policy recommendations in this Policy and achieve its purpose by taking the following actions primarily on the eight areas listed below:

(a) Laws, regulations, strategies, action plans and policies

i. Adopt and implement laws and regulations to further enhance the implementation of actions under this policy, as appropriate;

ii. Adopt and implement short, medium and long-term strategies and action plans on climate change on a regular basis taking into account national circumstances and international commitments;

iii. Amend existing policies and/or adopt new policies in relevant sectors to further enhance the implementation of actions under this policy, as appropriate;

iv. Ensure coherence and coordination of existing and future national and sectoral frameworks, policies, legislation, regulations, strategies and action plans;
**i.** Establish or strengthen existing institutions for the overall coordination, promotion, support, facilitation, and monitoring, evaluation and review of actions and results as necessary, in order to enable the effective implementation of climate action, at a high level;

**ii.** Allocate sufficient financial resources from the national and regional budget to implement climate adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors;

**c) Finance, budgets and investment**

**i.** Ensure all sectors assess the economic and non-economic benefits of early action on climate change in relation to their priorities, based on the best available science and local, national, regional and global data and statistics, and integrate the costs of adaptation and mitigation considerations into their work plans and budgets on a regular basis, and regional budget to implement climate adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors;
iii. Ensure climate-sensitive budgeting in all sectoral plans, and encourage the allocation of adequate sectoral finance to complement resources from the national budget;

iv. Incentivise and promote local and international investment in low-carbon and climate-resilient development;

v. Ensure that all investments are consistent with low-carbon and climate-resilient development;

vi. Facilitate access to international finance and mobilisation of domestic finance for climate change, including by establishing an institution or mechanism to coordinate climate finance, and strengthening institutional capacities to absorb and manage funds, as relevant;

(d) Capacity-building

i. Undertake and support capacity building activities to enhance the knowledge and skills of relevant stakeholders necessary for effective and gender-responsive climate action, in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner, and establish new institutions and/or a capacity-building framework, as relevant;
(e) Research and technology

i. Promote, facilitate and provide financial resources for productive research, the collection, analysis of and access to reliable quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by sex, age and other stakeholders, to enable effective and gender-responsive climate action;

ii. Promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of real-time data and information on short, medium and long-term climate change impacts, trends and projections relating to all geographic regions including through increasing the reliability and capacity of Myanmar’s climate observation systems;

iii. Promote and facilitate the development, transfer, acquisition, demonstration and deployment of environmentally sound technologies from national and international partners, that enable effective climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, and ensure equitable access to those technologies;
(f) Partnerships

i. Strengthen current partnerships and build new partnerships among ministries and between Government and the private sector, civil society, academia and intergovernmental organisations at the global, regional, national and local levels, for the effective implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in Myanmar;

(g) Transparency and accountability

i. Ensure transparency and accountability of all stakeholders through open decision-making, promoting public awareness and participation, and by providing access to information and access to justice;

(h) Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning

i. Monitor, evaluate and report the implementation and progress towards achieving the purpose of this Policy and strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders in this regard.
ii. Progressively improve the effectiveness and efficiency of actions under this Policy by encouraging continuous learning and knowledge-sharing at all levels.

15. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will take the lead in implementing this Policy to achieve its purpose through cooperation and partnership with all sectors and stakeholders, at all levels, in line with the guiding principles of this Policy.

16. As a first step in implementing this Policy, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar do hereby adopt the *Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan* to be implemented for the period 2018-2030 and, based on the periodic monitoring of the progress, to be revised as needed.