

Statement to be delivered by H.E. Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Ministry of  
Commerce of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (The HOD Luncheon and  
Roundtable)

Thank you Excellency for giving me the floor.

First of all, let me express our heartfelt thanks to you for organizing this Roundtable meeting on very significant and very relevant topic. As you may be aware, Myanmar has always been supportive to multilateral trading system along with regional integration and bilateral cooperation. Since our government took office in 2016, Myanmar has undergone a series of reforms including trade liberalization and trade openness with a view to promoting growth and development.

In the global context, we have witnessed that trade has helped to lift a billion people out of poverty. Currently, more than 780 million people still live below the poverty line globally, and so, trade plays the vital role in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, recent uncertainty about the future of global trade has coincided with tension among some trade partners. Trade tension among some key trading partners would only bring negative impact to international trade, as it can destabilize the global value chain.

In such scenario, for the interests of all countries in the region and beyond, we need to work together for further strengthening the global trading system and for ensuring that it keeps driving development now, and for generations to come.

In this connection, Myanmar fully supports for the Singapore Convention on Mediation which encourage the use of mediation to settle international trade disputes. We are fully confident that "Singapore Convention" would bring certainty to the international framework on mediation and facilitate the promotion of mediation as an alternative and effective method of resolving international trade disputes. Myanmar will join hand with our trading partners closely and constructively to support multilateral trading system and to strengthen international trade.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you, Excellency and your competent team for the excellent arrangement and hospitality extended to Myanmar delegation. Thank you.