

**Statement by H. E. U Thein Sein,  
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
at the Workshop on Drafting A Framework for Administrative  
Reform**

**Myanmar's Future Vision and the Role of Administrative Reform**

At the outset, I would like to extend my cordial greetings to the Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ministers of States and Regional Governments, Senior Officials from various Ministries, Ambassadors, Representatives of UN agencies, development partners and international organizations, foreign and local experts and distinguished guests.

The main purpose of conducting this workshop is to seek suggestions and recommendations for drafting a framework for implementation of administrative reform process.

I believe the workshop participants from the Cabinet, various Ministries, civil society, development partners and foreign and local experts will have fruitful deliberations and outcomes of suitable recommendations that could be incorporated as inputs into the draft framework for administrative reform.

Today, with a view to build a new modern, developed and democratic State, our Government has successfully and smoothly transformed an old system of governance into a

democratic one. You may also notice that there are still many countries that failed to achieve a smooth and successful transition like Myanmar. The smooth transition towards democracy is the very first change initiated by our government.

The political, economic, administrative and development of private sector reforms that we have been extensively carrying out to be in conformity with democratic system is the second change implemented by our government.

In addition, as we believe that democracy will thrive only if we have good governance, we are exerting our utmost efforts for the emergence of good governance during our democratic transitional period.

Since the transformation towards good governance is a delicate and complex one, we have to face obstacles and challenges like any other countries that are on the transitional path. Despite these challenges, we are confident to overcome them and committed to remain on this path.

To achieve good governance we need transparency and accountability in our administrative mechanisms serving the public. Additionally, we need to build up the capacities of our civil servants who are the main source of running the

administrative mechanism. In this respect, we need to introduce meritocracy and performance management systems.

We believe that the promotion of public administration will be contributive towards creating an enabling environment for building solidarity, prevalence of peace and stability and also bringing about development in the country.

The decentralization, which is one of the administrative reforms process, is being carried out in accordance with laws to allot budgets to the states and regions, support capacity building of the states / regions' government, regulate division of power, and to coordination various level within the ministers for effective and efficient delivery of public services.

With regard to promotion of accountability and transparency, Myanmar is in process of becoming a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the utilization of natural resources and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) which is a global effort to create a transparent, effective and accountable government. Furthermore, the government ministries now have public / press relation divisions to keep the media and the public informed about their works.

The administrative reform process covers a wide extensive area. It cannot be implemented by a single person, a single department or by a single organization. Likewise, the Federal Government alone or the various levels of state or region governments alone cannot implement it fragmentally. Therefore, it is important to have a policy framework in which we can consolidate our synergies and coordinate our works.

In the remaining tenure of the current Government, we are working to lay down good firm foundations for the sustainable development for the people and the country.

In implementing the administrative reforms, we have found that people have much aspirations, expectations and hopes. You may be aware that naturally, those will not always be possible to be met or fulfilled within one term of the government.

The administrative reform is a process - a sustained process. Hence, we need a sustained and firm foundation laid out early from the beginning to ensure its success in the future for the interests and the development of the country and the people.

Today, the administrative reforms are being carried out in various areas. In order to ensure cohesion, effectiveness

and efficiency we need “a strategic document” such as the “framework” to guide the implementation.

This framework for the administrative reforms should be seen as concerted and consolidated efforts for the people and Government to establish good governance.

The framework will be a “strategic record” of the government’s visions and the mission that will be passed on to the next generation of successive governments as a good enduring legacy.

The implementation of the administrative reforms will ensure the successful transition to democracy. The support by all relevant actors for the successful implementation of administrative reforms means that you are also supporting the democratic transition in Myanmar. Hence, I urge those present here today to lend your support and cooperation to make this a success. I conclude by inviting and welcoming your constructive inputs in discussion.

Thank you.