

Meeting of the UNSG's Partnership Group on Myanmar

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Ms. Sujata Mehta, Vice Minister

I would like to thank the UN Secretary-General for convening this meeting which will likely be the concluding meeting of the Secretary-General's Partnership Group on Myanmar. I would also like to thank Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, Special Advisor to the UNSG on Myanmar and acknowledge his efforts in assisting Myanmar in this crucial period of transition.

We support the winding up of this group and consider this as an important and welcome change. We have got to this point through a long evolutionary process and this is an important landmark. We also welcome the discontinuation of the practice of having a country specific resolution on Myanmar in the Human Rights Council from this year onward. These changes reflect the distance Myanmar has covered in its path of peace, development and democracy. In this moment of transition as at all times in the future, Myanmar would always find India standing by her side.

Myanmar is a friendly and important neighbour of India and we have always believed that peace and stability on our border with Myanmar and within Myanmar are crucial for us. India's close and multifaceted relationship with Myanmar has been further strengthened through the exchange of visits at the highest level.

We are happy that the general elections concluded peacefully in Myanmar and the process of transition to the new Government was smooth and amicable. We support fully the peace process initiative and national reconciliation efforts being undertaken by the new Government in Myanmar and as a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to extending all possible assistance and support in these efforts. We note that the new Government of Myanmar has successfully held the 21st Century Panglong Conference from August 31-September 03, 2016 in Myanmar. We wish the Government well in their efforts at political dialogue and national reconciliation in coming months.

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this occasion to convey India's support to the approach of the Government of Myanmar as articulated by Daw Aung San Su Kyi on the political dialogue and national reconciliation including in relation to the Rakhine State. The efforts of the Myanmar Government need to be supplemented and supported by the International community in line with their national priorities. In view of this, we support the view of the new Myanmar Government that they should be enabled to engage the United Nations constructively. UN agencies and international financial institutions have initiated their important developmental work in the country and this engagement needs to be maintained on a continuous basis. India believes that this crucial work should be pursued in a manner that

supplements and strengthens Myanmar's own efforts. We wish the best for the Government and the people of Myanmar in this important period of change and transition.

Thank you.