Statement by Myanmar Delegation

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

His Excellency Dr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,
His Excellency Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
His Excellency Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,
His Excellency Dr. Surasi KITTIMONTON, Secretary-General of the Office of Thai National Water Resources of the Kingdom of Thailand
His Excellency Li Guoying, Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China

High-level representative of the Development Partners and Dialogue partners, Excellencies, CEO of Mekong River Commission,
Distinguished delegates Ladies and Gentleman,

Good Morning!

1. At the outset, I am greatly honored to have an opportunity to attend in this important 4th MRC Summit on behalf of the our Head of State, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Government of Myanmar. Taking these opportunities, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the MRC Secretariat for its relentless efforts in organizing this Summit
and the Government of Lao PDR for hosting this auspicious event.

2. Mekong River not only acts as a part of the global river basin that supports daily livelihoods of the people living along the river but also has great potentials for their socio-economic development. Therefore, it is essential for us to preserve and protect the ecosystems of the Mekong River Basin through joint management and development for its sustainability in the future.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. As we all know, water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods, remain high on the agenda of each and every country in the region. To overcome such challenges and increased pressure, we need to identify innovative solutions to basin challenges through more proactive regional planning that can increase synergies, and reduce vulnerabilities at the basin and national levels, and provide a comprehensive response to climate change.

4. Under the theme of “Innovation and Cooperation for a Water Secure and Sustainable Mekong” of this summit, we ensure that the outcomes of the Summit will support our joint effort for the
sustainable development and management of water resources for the benefit of all Mekong people.

5. MRC has played a significant role in coordinating among the member countries, Dialogue Partners and Development Partners for integrated development, utilization and conservation of the Mekong River Basin water resources to address such challenges. It is true to say that MRC is an important mechanism for sub-regional cooperation on Mekong River basin.

6. I do believe that this cooperation could effectively enhance the integrated water resources and environmentally sound management in the region. With this realization, Myanmar has established the strong partnership with MRC as a good dialogue partner as a member of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, Myanmar has been actively participating in the LMC Water Resources Cooperation Center.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Like other Mekong Countries, Myanmar is also facing the environmental and water-related challenges such as ever increasing demand of water, experiencing floods, droughts and landslides attributed by extreme weather and climate change.

8. In order to address these challenges, Myanmar has made its great efforts on several policy enforcement measures by means
of developing Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, National Water Policy, National Environment Policy, and Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan and Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction as the long-term policy guidelines to be applied in our course towards the sustainable development. The National Water Resources Committee and National Environmental Conservation Committee are the policy-related guiding bodies for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and integration of environmental sustainability across the diverse sectors.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. We all depend on the Mekong River for food, livelihoods and wellbeing. But we often seem to forget that we should consider its needs. In this regard, we must keep together and continue our collective action to ensure sustainable use and protection of our shared water resources through innovation and cooperation for a Water-Secure and Sustainable Mekong.

10. An effective water resources cooperation is very important to seek the solutions for water problems and tackle the climate change impacts regarding the droughts and floods. So, Myanmar is willing to cooperate with MRC member countries and the MRCS as an active dialogue partner.

11. I would like to reaffirm that MRC is a professional organisation for the work of water resources cooperation. MRC is not a
political organisation. I would like to see MRC not to be involved with political agenda of any particular country. Myanmar will cooperate fully on technical matter and we will cease our cooperation if our professional work getting involved with political agenda.

12. In conclusion, I wish that we all can explore the joint effort for the sustainable development and management of water resources for the benefits of all Mekong people through a successful and fruitful discussion.

13. Thank you.