**Your Majesties, Your Highnesses,**

**Excellency Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

* Today, we all are gathering here in Bangkok to endorse our commitment to work together for development, creating Asia a viable hotspot for development. It is indeed an honour for me and for my delegation to be among others at this important leaders’ meeting.
* I would like to join the rest of the table/ delegations in congratulating the United Arab Emirates as the incoming Chair of Asia Cooperation Dialogue. I wish to express our sincere appreciation to Thailand for the excellent arrangement for organizing this meeting and their leadership demonstrated to this Group. And my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for its efforts to bring all of us here and the warm hospitality accorded to us.
* Taking this opportunity, I would like to recall the objective of this regional group that is, "to promote interdependence among Asian countries and to expand the trade and financial market within Asia".
* Asia is a continent of diverse peoples and culture, and I am confident that the coordinated move by Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), which encompasses all aspects, related to connectivity, sustainable development, economy, technology and innovation, will achieve greater social and economic benefits in the region. This cooperation will eventually benefit not only the peoples of Asia but also the global community at large.
* The ACD has already come a long way since its inauguration in 2002 in Cha-am, Thailand. We have established ACD to manage the impacts of globalization and to survive and to prosper as strong partners in the region. Asia is the world's largest and most diverse continent, covering about 30 percent of the land area on earth. And a home to the majority of human population with 4.4 billion, more than half of the world's population. And its population size makes Asia the largest market in the world and a rich pool of human resources.
* Asia remains to be the world's fastest growing region, and will continue to be a driving force for global economic growth in the decades ahead. Asia's proportion in world exports has also grown over the past decades. We have the second largest nominal GDP of all continents, after Europe, but the largest when measured in purchasing power parity.
* During the last decades, Asia was regarded as an area of increased economic activities, taking into account the high level of development of some countries of the region. However, so far most of its various parts are constantly facing socio-economic and environmental challenges.
* It is imperative for members to join hands to turn our diversities and vast potentials into mutual benefits.
* We have prioritized pillars as ACD's top agenda, and they are interconnected to our concerns for poverty reduction, green economy, food security, energy security, environmental conservation, business development and enhancing intercultural dialogue.
* Regional connectivity has topped our agenda. Connectivity is the tool to enhance economic growth and strengthen Pan-Asia links as well as people-to-people linkages among members, and to encourage members to establish cooperative programmes to promote sustainable development.

**Your Majesties, Your Highnesses,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

* Myanmar, strategically located between two giant economies - China and India - is working closely with our neighbours, ASEAN and Asian family to reach the national goals for developing our economy.
* The country is opening up her borders to connect with major routes in Southeast Asia and Asian region. The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway is an ambitious project of 1,360 kilometers that will connect the ASEAN region to India.
* Myanmar has huge untapped investment opportunities. Under the framework of Greater Mekong sub-region, Myanmar is part of East-West Economic Corridor and of the ASEAN Highway, covering 10 countries in 23 routes and a total distance of 36,000 kilometers.
* May I reiterate that as the cradle of civilization, being the most populous continent, with its abundant natural and human resources, Asia can be proud of its historical, cultural, economic, social and technological achievements, stretching back thousands of years to the time of the Silk Road and even earlier.
* Our shared concern as member of this group is the question on how we connect the small pieces of the jigsaw puzzle together to make Asia a peaceful oasis with a sound economy and knowledge based society.
* Once again, I would like to thank our host, the Government of Thailand for this 2nd ACD Summit and new Chair, the United Arab Emirates as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran for the upcoming 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting and the 3rd ACD Summit.
* Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

****

**Speech by His Excellency U Myint Swe,**

**Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**to the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit**

**(Bangkok, 10th October 2016)**

Political Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dated, 26 September 2016