



**Chairman
State Administration Council
Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Message on the 24th Anniversary of the BIMSTEC

Today marks the 24th Anniversary of the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a regional grouping of seven countries with a common aspiration to build “a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region” through collective efforts and meaningful cooperation. On this auspicious day, I have the pleasure to extend my warmest felicitations and best wishes to the Governments and the peoples of BIMSTEC Member States.

Throughout its 24-year journey, BIMSTEC has made significant progress in fulfilling aims and purposes enshrined in the 1997 Bangkok Declaration. BIMSTEC is now about to embark on a new era with the Charter of BISMTEC which is to be signed at the upcoming Summit. I am strongly confident that the Charter will serve as not only a solid foundation for rule-based cooperation, but also confer BIMSTEC a legal personality.

Presently, the COVID-19 pandemic is still posing as a daunting threat to health, economy and livelihood of the peoples around the world, including our region. I am confident that, with our collective efforts, we will be able to defeat these challenges and rebuild our regional economy in the near future.

As Myanmar views BIMSTEC as a key platform for peace, prosperity and sustainability in the Bay of Bengal region, we are committed to active cooperation in

response to new and emerging challenges, together with other Member States in a spirit of friendship, solidarity, mutual respect and mutual understanding.

I wish BIMSTEC a stronger, more effective and resilient cooperation framework in the years to come.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June 2021