



**MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COUNSELLOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR ON
THE 21st ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIMSTEC**

On this auspicious day of the 21st Anniversary of the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I have a great pleasure in extending my warmest greetings and best wishes to the Governments and Peoples of all BIMSTEC member countries.

BIMSTEC is a unique sub-regional organization, connecting South and Southeast Asia. The region is rich in natural and human resources and bond together by historical linkages and cultural affinities. These factors allow BIMSTEC to provide a conducive platform for the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in our region.

Over the past two decades, BIMSTEC has made visible progress in many areas of cooperation. There have also been fruitful results in institutional development. The establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat in 2014 has provided greater efficiency in the coordination of BIMSTEC activities and led to a more effective implementation of BIMSTEC projects. Progress are also being made in the implementation of the Outcome Document of the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat adopted in Goa, India in October 2016 which laid firm foundation for the future direction of BIMSTEC cooperation.

While acknowledging the steady progress in our cooperation, we should recognize the need to accelerate our efforts to gain our common goals of peace, stability and prosperity in our region. It is essential for Member States to resolve disputes and differences through peaceful means in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect. We must also maintain the group's unity and stand together in addressing emerging challenges within our region and beyond.

Myanmar, with its geostrategic position, will continue to make every effort to contribute to the BIMSTEC as it continues along its path to become a more effective and result-oriented organization in the interests of the peoples in the region.

Nay Pyi Taw
6 June 2018

Aung San Suu Kyi