Excelleny,

The Economic Analysis and Policy Division (EAPD) of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) is partnering with governments and research entities to undertake a multi-country project on “Strengthening national policy capacities for jointly building the Belt and Road towards the Sustainable Development Goals”.

The objective is to establish an institutional network among the countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) for research on the economic, social and environmental effects of the cooperation activities under the B&R Initiative, and on national and cross-county policies to harness these activities for the acceleration of the SDGs. The project will further promote capacity development and assist interested Governments in translating policy options into programmes at the country level and help build national capacities.

For this purpose, EAPD plans to use its World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM) as the baseline analytical framework to assess various macro-economic impacts of the B&R Initiative in participating countries. Additional tools will be developed to assess sectoral impacts and analyse policy options, as well as identify inter-linkages among the various elements of sustainable development.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been suggested as one of the pilot countries to kick off this project. A scoping mission by DESA is scheduled to be conducted in September/October by Mr. Namsuk Kim, the Manager of the Project.

During the mission, Mr. Kim plans to brief key governmental counterparts on the project and discuss how it can best support country-level implementation of the SDGs. He also plans to meet with major think tank and development partners, to build the initial contacts for synergies.

H.E. Mr. Hau Do Suan
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar to the United Nations
New York
I would therefore like to request your kind assistance in communicating this project to the most relevant governmental agency and seeking expressions of interest/support. Further, identification of the appropriate focal point that can be tasked with coordinating the related project activities in the country would also be very helpful.

With regards to the above, your kind support and coordination would be highly appreciated.

A brief description of this project is attached with more detailed background information. Please feel free to contact Mr. Namsuk Kim at kimnamsuk@un.org for any further information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration,

LIU Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General

CC: Mr. Knut Ostby
United Nations Resident Coordinator