

# EU Joint Programming Myanmar 2014-16

Regional Workshop, Yangon 28-29 April





We now have a Joint EU  
Strategy for Myanmar





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On 24 November, the Joint European Union Development Partners' Transitional Strategy for Myanmar (2014-2016) was launched in Yangon. The new strategy was symbolically handed over by the EU Ambassador to Myanmar, Roland Kobia, to the Minister for Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Kan Zaw.

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#### 1. Introduction

The civilian government headed by President U Thein Sein that came to power in March 2011 has embarked upon a remarkable transition process and launched a comprehensive reform agenda which has ended the country's isolation from the wider world. Myanmar aims to achieve democratisation, domestic peace, and justifiable and sustainable growth, but is also committed to addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment, ethnic divisions, deep-rooted poverty, and fragile state institutions.

## Single framework for EU support

The rapprochement between the government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been remarkable. Her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), ran and won most of the 2011 by-elections. This has been followed by a series of significant political and constitutional reforms, including the formation of a national dialogue in 2011, the signing of comprehensive settlements to end all armed conflict in the country as a national priority. In April 2012, the European Union Council of Ministers adopted a political declaration on the opening and reform process in Myanmar. This was followed by a suspension of EU sanctions in July 2012. In further political developments, in April 2013 EU sanctions apart from the arms embargo were lifted altogether. The suspension of EU sanctions has enabled the European Union to engage more closely with the government. In July 2013, the Council of Ministers adopted a Comprehensive Framework for the European Union and Member States' policy and support to Myanmar/Burma for the next three years.

Peace building, Governance, Rural Development, Health, Education, Trade & PSD

The Comprehensive Framework states that the EU and Member States' engagement will be guided by the principles of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord, and will support political, social and economic development, while fostering respect for human rights and assisting the government in building its place in the international community. It is a collective effort involving a wide range of EU and Member States' institutions to support peace, democracy, development and justice.

The Comprehensive Framework states that authorities in Member States and EU Institutions will work together to plan their programmes of assistance and will be guided by the Framework. In this context the EU is fully engaged in development partner coordination efforts locally in the framework of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord agreed in January 2013 and are proceeding towards Joint Programming of EU and Member States development aid, as agreed by the Heads of EU Missions in Myanmar.



# Why did we do it?



# Country Context?

Country Context



Politic  
Economi



What next?

2010

2015



# What has this meant for development cooperation?

Dynamic, **unpredictable** environment (& elections upcoming)

Flood of **new** aid and DPs since 2012

Limited **coordination** structures & systems before 2013 esp. with  
Government

Limited **Government** capacity

DPs with similar aims and concerns but all want visibility

Idea we could make a **fresh start** here, do things differently...



# Given this, how did we think JP could help?

Ownership & alignment ↑

Predictability & transparency ↑, transaction costs ↓

Aid fragmentation ↓

Makes Europe happen on the ground – including politically

Impact & value for money ↑

Influence & visibility ↑

Pressure to do everything yourself ↓

How did it turn out?



# What worked well...

AIMS, MOU, KAC, MEU, ...

Helped **stimulate** joint EU action – e.g. common statements, more joint *programmes*, DoL of leadership of Sector Working Groups

Raised **visibility** of Europe as a coherent actor and our collective **influence**

**Pragmatic** approach, acknowledging that for some issues we will all want to work on them, but we can do this in a coordinated way

Making it part of a **package** – JP *plus* support to creation of coordination structures, AIMS, Nay Pyi Taw Accord: EU as champion of wider DPs' aid effectiveness work

# What needs more work?

It was a long process- first TA mission: April 2012, Joint Strategy signed off: Nov. 2014...

Only 2 DPs make reference to the joint strategy in their bilateral strategy / implementation plan or on their website

Division of labour could have gave further (average 4 sectors per DP & 9 DPs per sector) and current monitoring shows it's anyway not always adhered to in practice

Shared drafting –volunteers are needed!

Capitals – field connection: more work needed

What's next?

# Monitoring already started

Monitoring the Joint EU Development Partners' Transitional Strategy for  
Myanmar 2014-16

Status of national social and economic **indicators**? GoM reporting +  
international indices

The Strategy says the following about how it should be monitored:

Are we sticking to the agreed **division of labour** and **financial pledges**?

*"European Union development partners support the prompt establishment of the monitoring committee [of GoM for tracking the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms] and will look to this body to provide monitoring and evaluation data, given that the present Strategy is designed to support the implementation of the pledges made in the Nay Pyi Taw Accord."*

How is the implementation of **bilateral portfolios** going?

*"Reference will also be made to the monitoring of the Action Plan of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for*

Are we **integrating** the Strategy into our work – quick check: is it  
mentioned in our bilateral documents & on our websites?

*"Supplementary information may however be obtained from relevant international processes such as:*

Are we making progress towards **synchronisation** from 2016 on?

*Millennium Development Goals*

- *Human Development Index*
- *GNI per capita*
- *Tax to GDP ratio*
- *Gini Index*
- *Poverty rate*
- *Life expectancy*



New strategy from 2016 on

Synchronise cycles

Do a better division of labour

Include wider package of EU joint actions incl. political ones

Adjust bilateral implementation plans / documents

Political will from capitals is key

# Thank you

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