

Mr Marzuki DARUSMAN  
Chairperson  
Independent International Fact-  
Finding Mission on Myanmar  
UNITED NATIONS  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## **Statement from Max Myanmar Group**

**Re: UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar  
9 August Report entitled “The economic interests of Myanmar’s military”**

Max Myanmar Group is a private, independent business organization that has a track record of upholding the highest standards of corporate governance. Through our philanthropic arm, the Ayeyarwady Foundation, we contribute towards positive social impact in Myanmar.

An issue highlighted in the FFM Report was the attendance of Max Myanmar, together with many other companies, at fund-raising events organized in September 2017 by the office of the Senior General and in October 2017 by the State Counsellor’s office, to support rehabilitation efforts in Rakhine State.

Although we were invited and asked to donate, Max Myanmar did not make any donation to the military for the construction of a barrier fence along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border as claimed by the FFM Report. On 20 October 2017, the Ayeyarwady Foundation’s Board of Directors resolved that contributions could solely be directed to projects that are aligned with health, education, rehabilitation and development. This humanitarian contribution is acknowledged in a certificate issued by the Government. Furthermore, for the record, we would like to state that since 2011 Max Myanmar has had no business ties with military owned or controlled entities.

Max Myanmar subsidiaries are members of the UN Global Compact since 2013. We have pledged to support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; to not be complicit in human rights abuses; and to work against corruption in all forms.

We have successfully embarked on a large-scale corporate restructuring program that saw our transformation into a Group of Companies that adhere to international best practices, anti-corruption and transparency standards. The Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business’

*Pwint-Thit-Sa 2019 released in April ranked Max Myanmar 3<sup>rd</sup> among the top companies in the country (top 5 in last five consecutive years) for disclosure about its corporate governance, sustainability management and reporting, using the criteria from the ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard. We recognize, however, that improvement of corporate governance is a continuous process, and we are committed to it both in our business, and our Foundation.*

As one of the leading private business groups, we are proud of our strong commitment to good governance and transparency, as well as our social development contributions. The unfounded allegations in the FFM Report deeply affect us and we regret the negative impact on our local and international business partners, our employees, friends and families who believe in our sincere efforts to make a difference and do business in a responsible manner. Our reputation is very important to us as we have worked hard to gain the respect and the trust of our stakeholders. We trust that this clarification will reinforce our position and values.

Yours Sincerely,



THA TOE KYAW  
Director  
Corporate Office  
Max Myanmar Holding Co., Ltd