

## International Monetary Fund

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IMF

**Myanmar:** Letter of Intent, Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies, and Technical Memorandum of Understanding

December 28, 2012

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## MYANMAR—LETTER OF INTENT

Nay Pyi Taw, December 28, 2012

Ms. Christine Lagarde  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund  
Washington, D.C. 20431

Dear Ms. Lagarde,

Myanmar is in the midst of a historic transition. After substantial progress in the first stage of reforms, which aimed at achieving peace and national unity, the new government of Myanmar has embarked on second-stage reforms targeting an immediate improvement of the economic and social well-being of Myanmar's citizens. To realize our economy's rich potential and reduce poverty in a sustainable manner, our government aims to comprehensively modernize the economy and integrate it with the global economy, including through regularization of financial relations with the international community. We recognize that to successfully meet these challenges, lasting macroeconomic stability is critical.

Therefore, our government has developed a program of economic policies and institutional reforms for the period through December 2013, which is outlined in the attached Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP). Our program is intended at laying the foundations for continued macroeconomic stability by further building capacity for macroeconomic management, and establishing a track record of sound macroeconomic policies. We request IMF staff to assist us in monitoring the implementation of this program via a joint assessment next year—called a twelve-month staff-monitored program (SMP) by the IMF—so as to pave the way for a potential formal Fund arrangement. This would support our broader reform efforts, which are being undertaken with the assistance of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and bilateral donors.

We believe that the policies set forth in the attached MEFP are adequate to achieve our program's goals. However, if needed, our government stands ready to take any additional measures that may become necessary to achieve them. We will continue to consult closely with IMF staff, including on the adoption of such measures, and in advance of any revision to the policies outlined in the MEFP. We will also provide IMF staff with the information necessary to monitor the implementation of our program.

MYANMAR

Our government authorizes the IMF to publish the staff report, this Letter of Intent, and the attached Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies and Technical Memorandum of Understanding.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

U Win Shein

Union Minister of Finance and Revenue

/s/

U Than Nyein

Governor, Central Bank of Myanmar

# ATTACHMENT I. MYANMAR: MEMORANDUM OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

## Introduction

**1. Myanmar is in the midst of a historic political and economic transition.** After decades of isolation and conflict, the new government of Myanmar, which came to power following the elections in 2010, has embarked on a comprehensive program of political and economic reforms with the aims of becoming a modern developed nation that meets the aspirations of its people for a better life, and better integrating Myanmar with the international community. These objectives are closely linked and mutually reinforcing. In the first stage of these reforms, we took far-reaching steps toward national reconciliation with political parties and nationality groups. Recently, our government has laid the groundwork for second-stage reforms aimed at improving the economic and social well-being of Myanmar's citizens.

**2. We have outlined our government's overarching goals in the draft Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESR).** Myanmar is a low-income country (LIC) in Southeast Asia, with a poverty headcount of 26 percent in 2010, largely concentrated in rural areas. While some progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been made, Myanmar lags other countries in the region on most indicators. The government is paying the highest attention to poverty alleviation and to reaching the MDGs. To this end, the FESR is aimed at helping achieve sustained economic growth and poverty reduction with the goal of graduation from LIC status, which in turn will facilitate further progress in the national reconciliation and democratization process currently underway. To achieve our national goals outlined in the FESR, we have identified as policy priorities (i) sustained industrial and agricultural development to attain poverty alleviation and rural development; (ii) equitable sharing of resources among regions and states while promoting local and foreign investment; and (iii) effective implementation of people-centered development, through community-driven, participatory approaches to improve education, health, and overall living standards. Full economic integration with ASEAN in accordance with the ASEAN Economic Community schedule will reinforce these policies. Key measures to implement our policies are land reform to reduce landlessness, improving access to credit, and supporting access to both domestic and overseas job markets, as well as industrial development to provide job opportunities.

## Our Program Objectives and Policies

**3. We recognize that, to achieve our broader goals, ensuring macroeconomic stability during the reform process is critical.** Our program aims to (i) maintain macroeconomic stability and ensure debt sustainability; and (ii) lay the foundations for lasting macroeconomic stability by building a macroeconomic framework, and develop the institutions and instruments to use it

effectively. Our macroeconomic goals are to maintain stable and low inflation and increase our international reserves to provide a buffer against external shocks during the reform process. We have already begun implementing reforms in related policy areas:

- *Foreign exchange regime.* We replaced the peg to the SDR (at 8.51 kyat/SDR) with a managed float on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, where the reference exchange rate is determined in an auction mechanism; lifted key exchange restrictions (including the requirement to use only export proceeds for imports); and issued licenses to conduct international banking to a number of private banks. As a consequence, the difference between the reference rate and the informal market rate has diminished significantly. We also eliminated the discretionary authorization by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) that allows market participants to quote at times exchange rates outside the +/- 0.8 percent band (including by more than two percent). In addition, we have aligned the maximum spread around the reference exchange rate that banks are allowed to quote customers with that at retail counters to encourage further flows into the formal market. A new foreign exchange management law targeting to lift all restrictions on current payments and transfers was passed by the parliament in August, though implementing regulations still need to be drafted.
- *Financial sector reform.* We liberalized the bank deposit rates within a fixed corridor, expanded eligible collateral to include key agricultural export goods, lifted additional capital requirements for branch expansion, and eliminated the deposit-to-capital ratio requirement. We also licensed four new commercial banks.
- *Central bank reform.* A central bank law has been approved by the cabinet and awaits passage by parliament. It aims to provide more operational autonomy and proper accountability to the CBM and equipping it with core central banking functions, some of which are currently undertaken by state banks. We have formed a committee which has identified the stock of official foreign exchange reserves at state banks and have begun their gradual transfer to the CBM.
- *Monetary policy framework.* The CBM is making preparations to adopt a reserve money targeting framework. Pending the development of a secondary treasury securities market, monetary policy implementation will primarily be conducted via open market operations in the form of deposit and credit auctions, which have recently begun.
- *Fiscal sector.* Our goals in the near term are to increase transparency and accountability in the budget process, allocate more spending to reaching our development goals, and lay the basis for higher revenue collections in the medium term. In line with those objectives, the FY2012/13 budget was, for the first time, debated in and approved by the Parliament. It increases allocations for health and education almost fivefold and twofold, respectively, compared to FY2011/12, financed to a significant extent by the positive revenue impact of adopting a more realistic market-based exchange rate in state economic enterprise

(SEE) operations. We have also increased civil servant pensions from very low levels. At the same time, in a first step to increase their financial autonomy, SEEs have been granted limited autonomy to finance part of their operating costs by themselves (instead of through direct budget allocations). We abolished the withholding tax on imports, simplified the commercial tax on domestic sales, broadened the tax base by requiring public sector employees to pay income tax, and steepened the progressivity of the income tax. We have also eliminated a tax on key agricultural exports to support external competitiveness.

**4. As a result of these policies, economic performance has improved in FY2011/12 and the economic outlook is favorable.** In FY 2011/12, growth accelerated slightly to 5½ percent, while inflation (IMF estimate) declined rapidly to 5 percent (y/y), from almost 9 percent (y/y) the previous year, mainly due to declining food prices and lower deficit monetization. The fiscal deficit rose moderately, to 6 percent of GDP (IMF definition). While the current account deficit widened to 2½ percent of GDP, international reserves rose to \$4.2 billion at end-September, covering 3¼ months of recorded prospective imports of goods and nonfactor services (GNFS). Growth in FY2012/13 is projected to accelerate to around 6¼ percent, supported by higher investment, while inflation would rise somewhat to about 6 percent (y/y), largely due to the effect of rising international food prices. The balance of payments, despite a projected further increase in the current account deficit to 4 percent of GDP, is forecast to reach an overall surplus largely financed by FDI, raising reserve coverage of prospective GNFS imports to around 4 months. The budget deficit is projected to record about 5¼ percent of GDP (IMF definition) in FY2012/13, after budget revisions. We intend to continue to increase spending on health, education and infrastructure, afforded by higher natural gas revenues.

**5. We are also making efforts to clear our arrears to official bilateral and multilateral creditors.** We have already agreed with Japan to this end, and are in advanced discussions with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (AsDB) to clear arrears to them, which we expect to pave the way for a resumption of assistance from these institutions. We have also accepted the invitation of the Paris Club to discuss options for clearance of arrears with its members.

**6. As we continue with our reforms, we have requested IMF staff to assist us in monitoring our economic policies through December 2013.** Our work with the Fund will focus on the following areas: (i) eliminating remaining exchange restrictions and multiple currency practices (MCPs); (ii) modernizing the financial sector, including the CBM, to facilitate macroeconomic management and growth; and (iii) laying the foundations for improving our fiscal revenues in the medium term for sustainable development spending. In all of these areas, we are requesting continued IMF technical assistance (TA).

## A. Foreign Exchange Policies

**7. Our goal is to accept our obligations of Article VIII Section 2(a), 3 and 4 of the IMF's Articles of Agreement in 2013.** We consider the reforms of the foreign exchange regime and

lifting restrictions on current payments and transfers essential to improve the external competitiveness of our economy, increase trade, and bring us closer to our ASEAN integration goals. Consistent with this, we will eliminate remaining exchange restrictions and MCPs, and will seek approval of the IMF's Executive Board for the MCP arising from our multi-priced foreign exchange auctions which is nondiscriminatory and will be maintained on a temporary basis until the foreign exchange market of Myanmar develops. In addition, we will (i) remove the exchange restriction on invisibles by lifting the CBM approval requirement to make payments and transfers for these; and (ii) announce a plan to phase out Foreign Exchange Certificates (FECs) that will remove any legal requirement for their use and include a time table to redeem them (structural benchmarks). We will also coordinate closely with IMF staff to ensure that new legislation, regulations, and bilateral payment arrangements do not create new exchange restrictions, and provide them with the necessary information.

**8. We will take additional steps to deepen and facilitate the smooth functioning of the formal foreign exchange markets.** To enable private banks to offer foreign exchange operations and services at par with state banks, we will remove restrictions that currently prevent them from doing so (structural benchmark). In particular, we will allow them to open foreign exchange accounts for all private sector entities, embassies, and international and nongovernmental organizations; align the permissible frequency of foreign exchange cash withdrawals with that of state banks; and remove the requirement for the CBM's prior approval for transfers abroad by private banks.

**9. In conducting foreign exchange auctions, the CBM will strive to ensure further convergence of the formal and informal market rates.** To achieve this, the CBM will encourage faster adjustment of the reference rate in case of large deviations between the reference rate and the informal market rate, while at the same time supporting the liquidity of the foreign exchange market, including through increased interventions without targeting a specific exchange rate level.

## **B. Monetary Policy and Financial Sector Modernization**

**10. Strengthening our capacity to conduct monetary policy is a critical prerequisite for macroeconomic management.** We will focus on enabling the CBM to assume core central banking functions and improve its capacity to conduct monetary policy. To this end, we will (i) pass a central bank law providing operational autonomy and accountability to the CBM and equipping it with foreign reserve management functions currently carried out by state banks by March 2013; and (ii) continue gradually transferring the stock of international reserves currently held by state banks to the CBM, with the aim of completing the full transfer in 2014.

**11. We will also improve and make better use of our existing toolkit for more effective monetary policy implementation.** The CBM will conduct its deposit and credit auctions regularly to offset its net foreign exchange operations, while it continues to develop its reserve money forecasting capacity with the aim of moving to a reserve money targeting framework by

late-2013. In the meantime we will recalibrate our key monetary policy instruments in 2013 and in line with banks' capacity to comply, by including in the definition of banks' required reserves only current account balances with the CBM, lengthening the reserve maintenance period to two weeks, and adjusting the required reserve ratio and liquid asset ratio in line with previous IMF TA recommendations. These requirements will also be applied to state banks. In addition, we will remove any remaining restrictions on interbank trading.

**12. We intend to take steps to modernize our regulations and strengthen supervisory capacity to support financial sector development.** In particular, we will bring the definitions of bank capital and nonperforming loans closer to international standards; strengthen the enforcement of connected lending limits to contain risks to financial stability during the modernization process of the financial sector; and improve banks' risk management as a precursor to liberalization of lending rates and maturities. In addition, we aim to replace the mandatory surrender requirement of excess foreign exchange positions—which is applied to private banks only—with a net open position limit. These changes will be implemented step by step, in line with the development of needed supervisory capacity. To support their implementation, we have requested two resident advisors on bank regulation and supervision from the IMF.

**13. We view developing financial markets as essential to facilitating the financing of the budget deficit without resort to monetization.** As an initial step, we will allow the Myanma Economic Bank to buy treasury bonds to gradually eliminate its structural excess liquidity, reduce its losses and monetization. We will also prepare the necessary regulations to introduce auctions of treasury securities (structural benchmark).

## C. Fiscal Policies

**14. We will orient our fiscal policies toward supporting continued macroeconomic stability, while providing sufficient room for much-needed social and investment spending.** Therefore, we aim to keep the fiscal deficit in FY2013/14 and over the medium-term broadly unchanged at around 5 percent of GDP (IMF definition, which corresponds to around 4 percent of GDP based on our definition), while further increasing allocations for investment and recurrent spending in the health and education sectors in line with the FESR, as well as infrastructure investment. Higher expenditures will be supported mainly by rising revenues from gas projects coming on stream. We will use nonconcessional external borrowing only to finance economically viable projects in priority sectors such as energy and infrastructure, at levels consistent with maintaining debt sustainability and low risk of debt distress.

**15. We will endeavor to improve our tax revenues to reduce dependence on natural resource revenues in the medium term.** This is a prerequisite to achieve our goal to boost development spending and investment on a sustainable basis to support poverty reduction and graduate from LIC status, while maintaining low public debt levels. Tax policy and administration reforms will be implemented gradually and in a coordinated manner. We are planning to develop

strategic plans for both tax administration and tax policy with the broad aims to further simplify rates while broadening the tax base, promote environmental conservation, move toward greater reliance on indirect taxes and self-assessment in direct taxation, and improve the capacity of the tax administration. However, we will begin implementing initial reform steps in both areas. In tax administration, we will establish a large taxpayer office with the aim for it to become operational in September 2013 (structural benchmark). On tax policy, we are considering reforming the taxation of special consumption goods (such as alcohol, tobacco, luxury items, and polluting goods). This would lay the foundation for an eventual move to a value added tax, which would encompass equalizing commercial tax rates for all goods. We will also streamline tax incentives for investment in the income tax law.

**16. We will also take steps to improve public financial management.** We will establish a treasury and debt management function in the Ministry of Finance and Revenue during 2013, as recommended by recent IMF and World Bank TA. Detailed plans for achieving these will be developed in the context of continuing TA from the IMF and World Bank. We will also conduct a public expenditure review with the help of the World Bank to better inform our fiscal policies and improve efficiency of public spending in our priority areas.

#### **D. Reforms for Achieving Sustainable and Equitable Growth**

**17. In the medium term Myanmar's economic prospects are good.** Our country has rich natural resources, a young labor force and could benefit significantly from its strategic location in a dynamic region. While these conditions would support our aim for higher growth in the medium term, we recognize that further reforms would be needed to realize this potential. We project GDP growth to increase to around 7 percent over the medium term, supported by rising investment, both domestic and foreign. Inflation is expected to remain moderate at around 5 percent. We aim to further build international reserves to provide a cushion against possible adverse shocks that may arise from external developments beyond our control, as well as macroeconomic risks arising from the reform process itself.

**18. Realizing the potential of our economy will require increased local and foreign investment, and major advances in health and education.** A foreign investment law to ensure a stable and predictable environment for external investors has been passed by Parliament, and we are drafting an overhaul of the law on special economic zones, which are key to supporting industrialization. A comprehensive investment climate assessment is planned by the World Bank to guide broader reforms for private sector development. To support agricultural development, new land laws giving titles to farmers and encouraging the development of fallow land for agricultural use, and a new microfinance law to improve access to finance, were passed by the Parliament. To improve health and education of our citizens, we plan increased spending on related infrastructure, as well as broader sector-wide reforms. We are also focusing on developing key infrastructure, including energy, transport, and telecommunications. Sectoral

plans for these critical areas are currently being prepared, with the support of the World Bank and AsDB.

## E. Statistics

**19. Reliable statistics are critical for informed public policy decisions.** We are placing high priority on improving the accuracy and timeliness of our statistics. To this end, we have already received, and have requested further TA from the IMF and other development partners.

## F. Program Monitoring

**20. We intend to closely monitor the implementation of our program.** To this end, we have established a number of quantitative and structural benchmarks for end-March 2013 and end-September 2013, listed in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. These benchmarks will form the basis for assessments scheduled for June 2013 and January 2014. We will also put in place a framework for monitoring by creating a committee including representatives from the CBM, MOFR and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to report to the Minister of Finance and Revenue. Based on these reports, the Minister will regularly brief the cabinet on progress with our reform program. The definitions of the relevant variables are contained in the Technical Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment II).

**Table 1. Myanmar: Indicative Quantitative Benchmarks 1/**

	Sep 2012	Dec 2012	Mar 2013	Jun 2013	Sep 2013	Dec 2013	Mar 2014
	Est.	Proj.	Target	Proj.	Target	Proj.	Proj.
<b>Net international reserves of the CBM 2/ 3/</b> (cumulative flow from end-Sept 2012; in millions of US\$)	..	655	<b>705</b>	1,300	<b>1,504</b>	1,916	2,125
<b>Net domestic financing of the NFPS deficit 4/</b> (cumulative flow from the beginning of the fiscal year to end-period; in billions of kyat)	369	1,533	<b>1,921</b>	343	<b>1,053</b>	1,523	1,815
<b>Net CBM financing of the NFPS deficit 4/</b> (cumulative flow from the beginning of the fiscal year to end-period; in billions of kyat)	228	376	<b>960</b>	31	<b>191</b>	314	794
<b>Accumulation of new external payment arrears by the non-financial public sector 5/</b> (ceiling on stock at end-period; in millions of US\$)	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0
<b>Contacting or guaranteeing of nonconcessional external debt</b> (ceiling; in millions of US\$)	...	...	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	2,000

1/ Fiscal year begins April 1.  
2/ Includes SDR and Gold. Valued at program exchange rate of Euro/USD=1.27 and a gold price of US\$1,750 per troy ounce.  
3/ Assumes transfer of international reserves from state banks to the CBM of US\$762 mn by end-March 2013, and a further US\$681 mn by end-September 2013.  
4/ The nonfinancial public sector (NFPS) comprises the Union government and state economic enterprises. A program exchange rate of 850 kyat per US\$ applies.  
5/ Excludes accumulation of new arrears on debt already in arrears.

**Table 2. Myanmar: Structural Benchmarks**

Actions	Date	Macroeconomic Objective
Eliminate exchange restrictions on payments and transfers for invisibles (MEFP ¶7)	March 2013	To eliminate Article VIII restrictions
Announce a plan for phasing out Foreign Exchange Certificates (MEFP ¶7)	March 2013	To eliminate a multiple currency practice
Remove restrictions that prevent private banks from conducting foreign exchange operations at par with state banks (MEFP ¶8)	March 2013	To help unify informal exchange rates
Prepare regulations to introduce treasury securities auctions (MEFP¶13)	September 2013	To facilitate market-based deficit financing
Establish an operational large taxpayer unit (MEFP¶15)	September 2013	To improve tax administration and increase tax revenues

## ATTACHMENT II. MYANMAR: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. This memorandum describes the definitions of the quantitative indicators for the staff-monitored program (SMP), as well as the respective reporting requirements.

### Indicative Quantitative Targets and Definitions

2. Indicative quantitative targets have been set for end-March 2013, and for end-September 2013 with respect to net international reserves of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), net domestic financing of the nonfinancial public sector (NFPS) deficit, net CBM financing of the NFPS deficit, accumulation of new external payments arrears by the NFPS, and contracting or guaranteeing of nonconcessional external debt, as specified in Table 1 of the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP).
3. The NFPS comprises the Union government and state economic enterprises (SEEs).
4. Program exchange rates and the program gold price, as specified in Table 1 of the MEFP, will be used to convert foreign currency cash and accounts into U.S. dollars, U.S. dollar cash and accounts into kyat, and value gold holdings. Cash and accounts in currencies other than those mentioned above will be converted at the actual exchange rates at end-period as published in the International Financial Statistics.

#### A. Net International Reserves of the CBM

5. A floor applies to net international reserves of the CBM, measured cumulatively from end-September 2012.
6. Net international reserves are calculated as the difference between gross international reserve assets and international reserve liabilities and foreign currency deposits at the CBM, valued at the program exchange rates and gold price.
7. Gross international reserve assets of the CBM are defined as the sum of monetary gold holdings of the CBM; holdings of SDRs; Myanmar's reserve position in the IMF; cash in foreign currencies; and foreign currency assets held abroad that are under the direct and effective control of the CBM.
8. International reserve liabilities of the CBM are defined as foreign currency liabilities of the CBM to nonresidents with an original maturity of up to and including one year, excluding SDR allocations.

**9.** Foreign currency deposits at the CBM include foreign currency and Foreign Exchange Certificate (FEC) deposits of commercial banks including state banks, SEEs, and the government held with the CBM.

## **B. Net Domestic Financing of the NFPS Deficit**

**10.** A ceiling applies to the net domestic financing of the NFPS deficit, measured cumulatively from the beginning of the fiscal year (April 1). Net domestic financing is defined as the sum of (i) net domestic bank financing and (ii) net domestic nonbank financing.

**11.** Net domestic bank financing is defined as the sum of (i) the change in net CBM credit to the NPFS, and (ii) the change in state and non-state commercial banks' claims on the central government in domestic and foreign currency, including the change in the holdings of government securities by banks, minus the balances of the NFPS held in commercial banks.

**12.** Net nonbank domestic financing is defined as the change in the holdings of government securities by the nonbank sector, calculated as the difference between the change in the stock outstanding of government securities and the change in the holdings of government securities by the banking system.

## **C. Net CBM Financing of the NFPS Deficit**

**13.** A ceiling applies to the financing by the CBM of the NFPS deficit, measured cumulatively from the beginning of the fiscal year (April 1). Net CBM financing is defined as the change in net CBM credit to the NFPS.

## **D. Nonconcessional External Debt**

**14.** A ceiling applies to the contracting or guaranteeing by the NFPS or the CBM of new nonconcessional debt of any maturity with nonresidents denominated in foreign currency, measured cumulatively from the start of the SMP, and applies continuously. The ceiling applies to the total amounts of debt and commitments contracted or guaranteed, regardless of when disbursements are made.

**15.** The definition of debt, for the purposes of the SMP, is set out in Point No. 9 of the Guidelines on Performance Criteria with Respect to Foreign Debt (Executive Board Decision No. 6230–(79/140), last amended by Executive Board Decision No. 14416–(09/91), adopted August 31, 2009). A debt is concessional if it includes a grant element of at least 35 percent, using the currency-specific commercial interest reference rate.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A more detailed discussion of the concessionality concept and a calculator to estimate the grant elements of a financing package are available at the IMF website at: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pdr/conc/index.htm>.

**16.** For program purposes, the guarantee of a debt arises from any explicit legal obligation of the NFPS or the CBM to service a loan in the event of nonpayment by the recipient (involving payments in cash or in kind), or indirectly through any other obligation of the NFPS or the CBM to finance a shortfall incurred by a loan recipient.

**17.** Excluded from the ceiling are (i) use of IMF credit; (ii) debts to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank; (iii) debts incurred to refinance or prepay existing debts, to the extent that such debt is incurred on more favorable terms than the existing debt; (iv) debts incurred to restructure existing debt or arrears; (v) debts classified as international reserve liabilities by the CBM; and (vi) import financing to SEEs.

**18.** The government will inform Fund staff in a timely manner before contracting any debt of this type and will provide sufficient information ahead of time to verify the degree of concessionality. It will also provide a brief summary of the projects to be financed, including an evaluation by the lender or the government, if available.

## **E. External Payment Arrears**

**19.** A continuous benchmark applies to the non-accumulation of external payment arrears on external debt contracted or guaranteed by the NFPS or the CBM. The accumulation of new external payment arrears on debt already in arrears is excluded from this definition. Also excluded from this definition are arrears accumulated on debt subject to cancellation, rescheduling or restructuring. External payment arrears consist of external debt service obligations (principal and interest) that have not been paid at the time they are due, as specified in the contractual agreements.

## **Data Provision**

**20.** The authorities will provide to the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department the data required to monitor performance under the SMP. All data revisions will be promptly reported. The data to be reported and reporting responsibilities are listed below.

### **21. Monetary data are reported by the CBM.**

- The monetary survey, the CBM's balance sheet, and the consolidated balance sheet of commercial banks will be reported on a monthly basis within 3 months of the end of the respective month.
- Any change in interest rates of CBM facilities will be reported within five working days.

### **22. Fiscal data are reported by the CBM and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue (MOFR).**

- Data on the net credit to the central government, nonfinancial public enterprises, and state and local governments by the CBM and by commercial banks will be reported within 3 months from the end of the respective month by the CBM.
- Data on the outstanding total stock of government securities as well as the stock outstanding to the CBM and to deposit money banks (DMBs), broken down by treasury bills and treasury bonds, will be reported on a monthly basis within 3 months from the end of the respective month by the CBM.

**23. External sector data are reported by the CBM and the MOFR.**

- International reserves held by the CBM, broken down by currency and instruments held at the end of the month will be reported on a monthly basis within two weeks of the end of the respective month.
- Foreign liabilities and foreign-currency deposits of the CBM, broken down by creditor, currency, maturity and instruments held at the end of the month will be reported on a monthly basis within two weeks of the end of the respective month.
- Foreign assets held by state banks broken down by ultimate owner of the assets (government, SEEs, or other), currency and instruments held at the end of the month will be reported on a monthly basis within two weeks of the end of the respective month.
- Outstanding stock, disbursements, amortization, and interest payments of short-term (with maturities of one year or less) and medium- and long-term (with maturities of more than one year) external debt contracted or guaranteed by the government, SEEs, or the CBM by creditor in original currency and U.S. dollars on a quarterly basis, to be provided within 8 weeks of the end of the respective quarter.
- External debt newly contracted or guaranteed by the government, SEEs, or the CBM, including terms (interest rate and grace and repayment periods) on a quarterly basis, to be provided within 8 weeks of the end of the respective quarter.
- Arrears on the external debt contracted or guaranteed by government, SEEs, or the CBM by creditor in original currency and U.S. dollars on a quarterly basis, to be provided within 8 weeks of the end of the respective quarter.
- Exceptional financing (rescheduled principal and interest on external debt) on a quarterly basis, to be provided within 8 weeks of the end of the respective quarter.