## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### Dear Shareholders

Since March 2018, in compliance with the change in the AIM Rules for Companies, the Company has adopted the Quoted Companies Alliance ("QCA") 2018 Corporate Governance Code as it believes it to be a well-established corporate governance framework grounded in international best practices which is appropriate for the Company given its size and Investment Policy.

The QCA 2018 Corporate Governance Code sets out ten principles of corporate governance:

Companies need to deliver growth in long-term shareholder value. This requires an efficient, effective and dynamic management framework and should be accompanied by good communication which helps to promote confidence and trust.

#### **Deliver growth**

- 1. Establish a strategy and business model which promotes long-term value for shareholders
- 2. Seek to understand and meet shareholder needs and expectations
- 3. Take into account wider stakeholder and social responsibilities and their implications for longterm success
- 4. Embed effective risk management, considering both opportunities and threats, throughout the organisation

## Maintain a dynamic management framework

- 5. Maintain the board as a well-functioning, balanced team led by the Chairman
- 6. Ensure that between them the directors have the necessary up-to-date experience, skills and capabilities
- 7. Evaluate board performance based on clear and relevant objectives, seeking continuous improvement
- 8. Promote a corporate culture that is based on ethical values and behaviours
- 9. Maintain governance structures and processes that are fit for purpose and support good decision-making by the board

#### **Build trust**

10. Communicate how the company is governed and is performing by maintaining a dialogue with shareholders and other relevant stakeholders

I address each of the QCA 2018 Corporate Governance Code's ten principles of corporate governance in turn below.

#### 1. Establish a strategy and business model which promote long-term value for Shareholders

At the Company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at The British Club, Yangon, Myanmar on 24 October 2019 the shareholders approved a resolution to amend the investment objective and policies of the Company as set out below:

"The Company will seek to realise the Company's investments in an orderly manner, such realisations to be effected at such times, on such terms and in such manner as the Directors (in their absolute discretion) may determine. Following such realisations, the Company will make periodic

returns of surplus capital to Shareholders on such terms and in such manner as the Directors (in their absolute discretion) may determine.

The Company shall not make any new investments in projects to which it is not already committed. However, this will not preclude the Directors (in their absolute discretion) from: (a) authorising the expenditure of such capital as is necessary to: (i) complete arrangements pertaining to the Company's existing investments; or (ii) carry out any activities that the Directors (in their absolute discretion) deem appropriate to ensure the sale ability of any existing investment; or (b) entering into any contract or other arrangement with any third party to realise all or any part of the Company's existing investments.

Following the disposal of all of the Company's existing investments, the Directors intend to put a winding up proposal to the Shareholders."

The Company's strategy until 24 October 2019 was to establish a business development and investment platform that seeks to make sensible investments in Myanmar, to capitalise on the growth opportunities there.

In essence the Company was seeking to make capital gains and/or derive income from investments in Myanmar.

#### 2. Seek to understand and meet shareholder needs and expectations

The Company was established for a very specific purpose and this purpose has been clearly communicated to potential shareholders, initially through the Admission Document, a copy of which is on the Company's website. In addition, the Company's website, in compliance with AIM Rule 26, contains a detailed description of the Company and its business.

Since Admission, the Board has sought to maintain an open dialogue with the Company's shareholders through:

- its Annual General meeting;
- the Regulatory News Service ("RNS") system of the London Stock Exchange;
- periodic mailing and press releases;
- its website myanmarinvestments.com;
- meetings with shareholders in the major financial cities in which its shareholders are based;
- the Company's investor forums which have been held in Yangon; and
- maintaining an active social media communications platform through LinkedIn (over 1,500 followers), Twitter (over 2,000 followers) and Facebook (over 5,000 followers). Due to the Shareholders' resolution on 24. October 2019, the Company has now terminated its social media presence.

In addition, the Company responds promptly to any requests for information from shareholders and potential investors, within the limits of ensuring that unpublished price sensitive information is disclosed only via the appropriate regulatory channels.

The Company believes it has been successful in maintaining an open and transparent dialogue with its shareholders, especially given its relatively small size and limited personnel.

In terms of communication, shareholders and potential investors can use the dedicated email address enquiries@myanmarinvestments.com or directly contact Michael Rudolf, the CFO on michaelrudolf@myanmarinvestments.com.

or

Henrik Bodenstab (Chairman) henrik@bodenstab.de

Aung Htun (Deputy Chairman) aunghtun@myanmarinvestments.com Nick Paris (Managing Director) nickparis@myanmarinvestments.com

## 3. Take into account wider stakeholder and social responsibilities and their implications for longterm success

The Board sought to take into account the views of other stakeholders, other than the shareholders, in the execution of the Company's Investment Policy.

Other stakeholders that the Board sought to engage with include:

- Employees the Company sought to provide a rewarding career for its staff in a caring and encouraging environment that enables each individual to maximise their potential. As illustrations of this, but by no means an exhaustive summary:
  - the Company provided extensive training for its staff, including on the job training that was supplemented by more formal training courses that are run in-house or by external trainers, including on-line training schemes;
  - the Company considered itself to be 'gender blind' in its approach to its employees: it did
    not take gender into account when recruiting, promoting, training or remunerating its
    employees. There has never been an instance of a gender pay gap in its remuneration of its
    staff; and
  - o all new joiners were required to confirm they are familiar with the Employee Handbook, including the sections on:
    - non-discrimination ("employees are not to engage in any practice or behaviour which discriminates against another person on the grounds of their age, sex, race, religion or physical attributes. Similarly, the Company will not tolerate aggressive or bullying behaviour within the workplace"); and
    - ethics, including understanding the Company's policy on bribery, confidentiality and its Share Dealing Code.
- Partners the Company sought to be a reliable and supportive business partner to each of its co-investors, looking to add value wherever possible and to work together to maximise the value of each business. In this context 'value' may not just be financial value but also the value that the businesses bring to their own employees, sub-contractors, customers and local communities. For example, working with our joint venture partners to ensure that the lending practices of MFIL adhere to the highest ethical standards, or working with Apollo Towers (now known as AP Towers) to ensure that child labour is not used by any of its sub-contractors.
- Community the Company's two investments all have significant positive benefits for the communities in which they operate:
  - AP Towers provides essential infrastructure on which the country's telecommunication network depends. Myanmar people can now readily communicate and access information and this not only brings education and enrichment to their lives but also supports their and the country's economic advancement;

- MFIL provides much needed access to financing for people wishing to start and develop their simple micro-businesses. This is an area that Myanmar, like many emerging economies, desperately needs (the Company is in the process of selling this investment); and
- Society where appropriate the Company has supported local charitable causes. During the
  devastating floods of 2015 it donated to the Red Cross to assist in its effort in alleviating the
  damage done by the storms. Our 2018 calendar featured a different local charity each month.
  The Company made a modest donation to each and provided the contact details so that others
  might be able to also support them if they felt so moved.

## 4. Embed effective risk management, considering both opportunities and threats, throughout the organisation

The Board is responsible for managing the risks inherent in the Company's strategy and the implementation of that strategy.

To ensure that appropriate resources are focussed on the key risk areas the Board maintains the Audit Committee whose members comprise of independent Directors.

### **Audit Committee**

During the financial period under review the following served on the Audit Committee: Henrik Bodenstab and Rudolf Gildemeister (who became Chairman from 18 August 2020).

During the period under review there were three meetings of the Audit Committee and all members of the committee attended all of the meetings.

The Audit Committee has responsibility for, amongst other things, the planning and review of the Company's annual report and accounts and half-yearly reports and the involvement of the Company's auditors in that process. The Audit Committee also has oversight of the Company's cash flow projections. The committee focuses in particular on compliance with legal requirements, accounting standards and on ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained over the Group's underlying assets and liabilities as well as the books and records. The ultimate responsibility for reviewing and approval of the annual report and accounts and the half-yearly reports remains with the Board.

The Audit Committee also advises the Board on the appointment of the external Auditors, reviews their fees and the audit plan. It approves the external Auditors' terms of engagement, their remuneration and any non-audit work.

The Audit Committee also meets the Group's auditors and reviews reports from the Auditors relating to accounts and internal control systems. The Audit Committee meets with the Auditors as and when the Audit Committee requires and, in conformity with good practice, meets the Auditors without the presence of the executive directors.

Auditor objectivity and independence is safeguarded through limiting non-audit services to tax work.

#### Share Dealing

The Company has adopted a share dealing code to comply with the EU Market Abuse Regulation ("MAR") that is consistent with the obligations set out in Rule 21 of the AIM Rules for Companies relating to directors' dealings in ordinary shares and warrants. The revised share dealing code was approved by the Board on 3 July 2016. The Company takes all reasonable steps to ensure compliance by the Directors and the Group's applicable employees.

#### The Takeover Code

As the Company was incorporated in the BVI, it is not treated as being resident in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man by the UK Panel on Takeovers and Mergers and therefore it is not subject to the UK Takeover Code. However, the Company has incorporated certain provisions into its articles of association which are broadly similar to those of Rules 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Takeover Code. It should however be noted that, as the Takeover Panel will have no role in the interpretation of these provisions, shareholders will not necessarily be afforded the same level of protection as is available to a company subject to the Takeover Code which now has the effect of law for those companies within its jurisdiction. Additionally, the Directors have the right to waive the application of these provisions.

#### Financial Action Task Force ("FATF")

The Company's operations manual is drafted to ensure the policies and procedures associated with its operations and investments are compliant with FATF requirements.

On 24 June 2016, Myanmar was recognised by the FATF as having made significant progress in addressing its strategic anti-money laundering/counter terrorist financing deficiencies earlier identified by the FATF and included in its action plan. As a result, Myanmar was no longer subject to monitoring by the FATF.

In September 2018, Myanmar completed its MER (mutual evaluation report). Since then, Myanmar has proactively made progress on a number of its MER recommended actions to improve technical compliance and effectiveness.

On 21 February 2020, the FATF put Myanmar on its list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring (grey list). Myanmar made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to strengthen the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime.

The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering ("APG") issued a 2<sup>nd</sup> follow-up report (reporting date 1 May 2021). According to this report Myanmar has made some good progress to address the deficiencies identified in the MER. However, moderate deficiencies remain. Myanmar will remain in enhanced (expedited) follow-up and will continue to report back to the APG on progress to strengthen its implementation of AML/CFT measures. Myanmar's next progress report is due 1 February 2022.

#### 5. Maintain the Board as a well-functioning, balanced team led by the Chairman

The Board seeks to ensure that it is comprised of a well-balanced mix of professionals whose individual skill sets and extensive experiences complement each other to ensure that the Board has the requisite resources to enable the Company to achieve its strategic goals. If resources permitted, the Board would consider the inclusion of other members with diverse backgrounds to provide a broader range of skill sets, perspectives and experiences.

The Board is responsible for setting Company strategy and then ensuring that the Company has the requisite wherewithal to achieve that strategy.

Out of a total of four directors, the Board comprises of one executive director (Nick Paris as the Managing Director), one non-executive non-independent director (Aung Htun) and two non-executive independent directors (Henrik Bodenstab and Rudolf Gildemeister). There is a clear separation of the roles of the Managing Director and the Chairman.

The Board meets regularly and is provided with timely updates and information from the Executive Director. As and when there are urgent commercial or other corporate matters, Board meetings are convened to seek guidance from the Board or to elicit a decision. All Directors are expected to act in good faith and to act in the interests of the Company.

The Chairman oversees the agenda for all Board meetings liaising closely with the executive and non-executive directors. The same applies for the meetings of the various committees outlined below and their respective chairmen. The Chairman is specifically responsible for the Chairman's Report and the Chairman's Statement on Corporate Governance in the Annual Report, and answerable to the shareholders on behalf of the Board for them. The Chairman is ultimately responsible to shareholders for the ethos, and oversight of good practice, of the executive management.

The Board was supported by the Investment Committee, the Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee until 10 November 2020 when all bar the Audit Committee were dissolved by the Board in order to streamline operations. Since Admission, these committees had been established with clear terms of reference and they regularly reviewed matters within their purview.

The Directors have access to the Company's nominated adviser ("**Nomad**"), broker, legal advisers, auditor, company secretary and, should it prove necessary in the furtherance of their duties, to independent professional advice at the expense of the Group.

Unless there is an unexpected event, Board and committee meetings are scheduled well in advance at a time and place that will enable the Directors to participate. All members of the Board are expected to attend each Board meeting and to arrange their schedules accordingly, although non-attendance is occasionally unavoidable.

An agenda and supporting papers are circulated to the Board and the relevant committees well in advance of the meeting. Directors may request any agenda items be added that they consider appropriate for Board discussion. Additionally, each Director is required to inform the Board of any potential or actual conflicts of interest prior to Board discussion.

Directors' and Officers' liability insurance cover is maintained by the Company on behalf of the Directors.

Number of meetings and Directors' attendance

During the year under review there were three appropriately timed meetings of the Audit Committee.

During the year under review there was one meeting of the Investment Committee (members were: Henrik Bodenstab (Chairman), Aung Htun and Rudolf Gildemeister) until it was dissolved on 10 November 2020.

During the year under review there were in total seven Board meetings; two of these Board meetings dealt with the tasks of the Investment Committee, there were no Board meetings that dealt with the tasks of the Remuneration Committee and the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee ("NCGC") as there were no issues to be discussed.

All the members of the Audit Committee and all Board members attended all of their respective meetings except for one Board meeting that was missed by Rudolf Gildemeister.

# 6. Ensure that between them the Directors have the necessary up-to-date experience, skills and capabilities

The following is a summary of the relevant experiences, skills and personal qualities and capabilities that each director brings to the Board. It should be read in conjunction with their biographies above.

#### Maung Aung Htun, Non-Independent Deputy Chairman

Mr Htun has worked in Thailand for over 30 years during which time he founded, and was Managing Director of, Seamico Securities, a leading investment banking and broking company which went public in 1995. He has also led, or is an investment committee member of, various Thai focussed private equity investment operations which have exposed him to a variety of industrial sectors. In these roles he has built up a wide network of senior corporate executives, entrepreneurs and investor contacts, many of which have shown interest in Myanmar.

Mr Htun has a long experience of involvement in governance and management of publicly listed companies. In addition to Seamico Securities, he founded and was on the board of Siam Selective Growth Trust Plc. (a London Stock exchange listed investment trust managed by Seamico) and has sat on the boards of various Stock Exchange of Thailand listed companies as a non-executive director as well as an audit committee member.

In addition to commercial interests in Myanmar he has been appointed by Myanmar's State Counsellor to the committee to review the restructuring of the Yangon Electricity Supply Company.

Through these various roles Aung Htun brings financial, governance, management and investment experience as well as a wide network of relationships in both Myanmar and Thailand which is a key investor in, and trading partner of, Myanmar.

He attends seminars and training courses in both Bangkok and Yangon on pertinent subjects.

## Henrik Onne Bodenstab, Independent Non-Executive Chairman

Mr Bodenstab has over 25 years of relevant professional experiences which he brings to the Company in his role as an Independent Non-executive Director and Chairman of the Board.

During his tenure at the Boston Consulting Group Mr Bodenstab had extensive engagements in various industries, which covered broad strategic, as well as operational challenges. This allowed him to gain very relevant experiences in effectively and systematically approaching new industries and companies.

After his time as a consultant Mr Bodenstab worked in executive operational roles both in companies he founded as well as larger established entities. During this time Mr Bodenstab gained expertise in many of the industries that Myanmar Investments is actively engaged in. He also worked extensively throughout Asia gaining first-hand experiences of the challenges and opportunities of newly developing markets.

Since 2014 Mr Bodenstab has been a partner in a private equity company. He has had extensive experience both of executing a number of investments for the funds it manages and of being engaged in multiple processes on the buy and sell side. This has equipped Mr Bodenstab to provide in-depth advice on the due-diligence processes, financing and funding rounds, development of investments to maximise returns for shareholders, as well as the development of corporate governance protocols appropriate for an institutional investor.

Overall Mr Bodenstab brings many years of expertise in strategic, operational and financial matters which are of great benefit to the Company.

After Mr Knight's retirement as a Director and Chairman on 18 August 2020 the Board of Directors elected Mr Bodenstab to be the new Chairman of the Company.

#### Rudolf Gildemeister, Independent Non-executive Director

Mr Gildemeister was appointed to the Board of Directors on 1 November 2019 and is co-founder and Managing Partner of All Myanmar Advisors, a Myanmar focused corporate finance and strategy advisory boutique.

He has over 20 years' leadership experience in successfully building, growing and restructuring businesses across industries, mostly in Asia. Before working in Myanmar, he was Managing Director and Asia-Pacific lead of CS Solution Partners for Credit Suisse, based in Hong Kong. He started his career at Nestlé where he held various brand management and business development functions in Hong Kong and South-East Asia, which included establishing Nestlé's sales and marketing activities in Myanmar.

Mr Gildemeister is on the Harvard Business School Global Advisory Board and a Director of several private companies in Hong Kong and Myanmar. He holds a BSc in Economics from Bristol University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

## Nicholas John Paris, Managing Director

Mr Paris has specialised in the launch and ongoing trading of closed end Investment funds since he joined Baring Securities in 1994 and throughout his career on the sell-side and the buy-side of the investment markets and he has had a particular focus on funds that were invested in Asia. Also, throughout his career he has focussed on the corporate governance rights of shareholders in closed end funds and both of these skill sets are of relevance to the Company and its shareholders as it navigates the winding down of its portfolio and ultimately of the Company.

In addition, he was a Portfolio Manager within the LIM Advisors Group one of whose clients is a substantial shareholder in the Company having invested at the Company's launch and which is also a co-investor in AP Towers through its shareholding in the Company's subsidiary, MIL4.

Mr Paris is also a Chartered Accountant in England and Wales and a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst and is able to apply the skills and knowledge gained from these qualifications for the benefit of the Company.

Mr Paris changed his role from Non-independent Non-executive Director to become the Managing Director of the Company on 1 November 2019.

Collectively the Board believes it has the necessary skill sets to discharge its responsibilities.

The Board draws on specialist legal advice in the UK, Singapore and Myanmar if the need arises and can bring in specialist due diligence advisers when assessing the risks inherent in a given investment situation. These might cover commercial, financial or legal due diligence as well as seeking advice on such matters as insurance or IT aspects.

The Remuneration Committee (until 10 November 2020) has retained the services of external advisers to assist it in the formulation of compensation arrangements for the Executive Directors.

The NCGC (until 10 November 2020) has retained the services of external advisers to assist it in establishing protocols to ensure that the Company's business is conducted so as to comply with the FATF requirements.

## 7. Evaluate board performance based on clear and relevant objectives, seeking continuous improvement

Since Admission, the Board has sought to ensure that the Board itself was "fit for purpose" and at the same time has adhered to a level of corporate governance appropriate for a London-listed company operating in an emerging economy.

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee

As a consequence of the fact that the Board consists of only four Directors after the retirement of William Knight, who left the Board on 18 August 2020, the Board decided on 10 November 2020 to dissolve this committee. The Board of Directors is now directly responsible for ensuring the Company's compliance with the AIM Rules for Companies as well as other relevant corporate governance standards.

The Chairman of the Board has affirmed that the Board is adequately staffed to discharge its duties and the Committee Chairman of the Audit Committee had confirmed that his committee is adequately staffed to discharge its duties.

When considering the appointment and reappointment of Directors, the Board considers whether the Board and the Audit Committee have the appropriate balance of skills, experience, independence, knowledge and diversity to enable them to discharge their respective duties and responsibilities effectively.

The Board also determines, on an annual basis, the independence of each of both independent Directors. This requires a statement by each Director to affirm that there are no situations that could compromise their independence. Each other director then also has to affirm that they believe that Director to be independent. The process is done for both independent directors. To date both independent directors have been affirmed as being independent.

Shareholders vote on the re-appointment of at least one Director at each Annual General Meeting, with every Director's appointment being voted on by shareholders every three years.

The Board has direct access to the Company's Nomad and, in conformity with good practice, non-executive members of the Board had the ability to meet with the Nomad without the presence of the executive directors during the year under review.

The Board has direct access to the Company's statutory auditor and, in conformity with good practice, the members of the Audit Committee have the ability to meet with the statutory auditor without the presence of the executive directors.

## 8. Promote a corporate culture that is based on ethical values and behaviours

The Company's corporate culture is a blend of its vision, its values, its people and its practices.

Our vision was to build a diversified but focused stable of businesses that will benefit from Myanmar's emergence.

Our values are established by the Board and in particular the Executive Director. These are conveyed to our staff and other the stakeholders through our business practices.

As noted above, the Company sets great store by ensuring that not only are its own operations conducted ethically but also the businesses of its investee companies must be run on similar lines.

In this regard the evaluation of both our staff and our investee companies includes an assessment of ethical behaviour. Any new investment opportunity was subject to our own proprietary "Business Integrity" assessment before we proceeded with it.

The Board ensures that during the year it interacts with all of our staff and all of our business partners to ensure that there is a consistency in their feedback on the values and corporate culture that we aspire to.

## Maintain governance structures and processes that are fit for purpose and support good decision-making by the Board

The Board is responsible for managing the Company in pursuing its clearly stated divestment strategy.

The day-to-day running of the Company is the responsibility of the Executive Director who is well versed in managing investments of the type done by the Company as well as the responsibilities of a listed company.

The Managing Director in particular is responsible for the overall control and management of the Group, the development and implementation of the Group's investing and business strategies, for managing the Group's investments and management of shareholder relations.

He is also responsible for the overall control and management of the finance and accounting functions of the Group, including the development of adequate internal controls, the maintenance of the Group's HR and IT systems, and for compliance with the Company's obligations as a BVI company and an AIM listed company. He is supported regarding these tasks by the CFO.

As a consequence of the fact that the Board consists of only four Directors after the retirement of William Knight, who left the Board on 18 August 2020, the Board decided on 10 November 2020 to dissolve the Investment, Remuneration and the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee and to take over their tasks. The Board has kept the Audit Committee as a separate sub-committee and the work of the Audit Committee is described in Section 4 above.

#### **Remuneration Committee**

The committee was dissolved on 10 November 2020.

The Remuneration Committee was responsible for establishing a formal and transparent procedure for developing policy on executive remuneration and to set the remuneration packages of individual Directors. This included agreeing with the Board the framework for remuneration of the Managing Director and such other members of the executive management of the Company as it is designated to consider. This included the administration of the Share Option Plan and the Carried Interest Plan and the allocation of the benefits from those schemes amongst the Board and management team. It was

also responsible for determining the total individual remuneration packages of each Director including, where appropriate, bonuses, incentive payments and allocation of share options and Carried Interest Plan points.

Even after the dissolution of the Remuneration Committee it is still clear policy that no Director plays a part in any decision about his own remuneration.

The Directors' Report on Remuneration Issues (after the Remuneration Committee was dissolved on 10 November 2020) for the year is included within this Annual Report.

## 10.Communicate how the company is governed and is performing by maintaining a dialogue with shareholders and other relevant stakeholders

During the year under review, the Company has been applying the QCA Corporate Governance Code. There were no instances where there was a breach or a departure from the principles of the QCA Corporate Governance Code.

It is my belief that this report, taken together with the rest of the Annual Report, should provide the reader with a clear understanding of:

- the Company's strategy;
- the inherent risks in executing that strategy;
- the risk management processes taken to minimise risks and maximise returns;
- the allocation of duties between the Board, its Audit Committee and the Executive Director;
- our efforts to conduct an open dialogue with our shareholders;
- the engagement of the Company with other stakeholders; and
- the promotion and preservation of our Corporate culture.

Should anyone have any further questions or suggestions on how we might reasonably improve our performance in this regard then I would heartily encourage them to contact either myself (henrik@bodenstab.de) or the Executive Director at his email address listed above in Section 2.

Yours faithfully

Henrik Bodenstab
Chairman of the Board
29 November 2021