



MYANMAR

**Statement by Ms. Aye Thidar Myo,
Advisor of Myanmar Delegation
on Agenda Item 28: Advancement of Women
at the Third Committee
of the 66th United Nations General Assembly,**

(New York, 12 October 2011)

(Please check against original, if necessary)

Statement by Mr. Myo Kywe, Minister of Labour, Myanmar
item 28: Advancement of Women at the Third Committee of the 66th United Nations
General Assembly,
12 October 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, first of all, to extend our congratulations to you and members of the Bureau on your election. We believe that your leadership will contribute to the success of the 66th session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and also wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for his report on agenda item 28: "Advancement of Women", including the report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which provide notably with information on progress that will continue to follow up the development at national, regional and international level.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to touch upon the Myanmar Government's efforts in the area of advancement of women.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is designated as the focal ministry on gender related issues. The Ministry, in collaboration with concerned government agencies, UNFPA and NGOs, has drawn up the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (1991-2015). The Plan of Action focuses on 12 tasks which were laid down by the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Moreover, as a state party to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), we are preparing to submit 4th and 5th combined periodic reports to CEDAW, which is due in 2011. In the process of preparation of this report, Myanmar has conducted 3 seminars and workshops on concluding observations made by the CEDAW Committee on 2nd and 3rd combined periodic report submitted in 2008 to make more awareness among all stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman,

It is of great importance to give specific attention to gender equality and empowerment of women in order to fulfill development agenda of a nation.

In Myanmar, women constitute 50.3 percent of the total population. Nowadays, women are increasingly participating in the political and civic life. Section 247 of the Chapter 8 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar clearly stipulates that "The Union shall guarantee any person to enjoy equal rights before the law without distinction of race, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth".

In addition, the Article 120 of the State Constitution also guarantees Myanmar women's equality with men in all spheres of life. At the time when the multi-party democratic election was held in Myanmar on 7 November last year, 104 women candidates competed in the election and out of which, 45 women were elected as Parliament members. Some of them are designated as members of respective States and regions. Besides, several prominent Myanmar women have taken up their duties at the local government level such as Deputy Ministers and Directors General. In the private sectors, there are also women Managing Directors who have been managing their business successfully and effectively. Hence, Myanmar women are enjoying equal rights on equal participation with men in three branches of government namely, legislative power, executive power and judicial power.

Mr. Chairman,

We are confident to say that Myanmar has made significant steps towards the advancement of women since she became a state party to CEDAW in 1997. Moreover, Myanmar now has a constitutional government which has created more favorable environment in our endeavour to promote the rights of women.

In this regard, we would like to reaffirm the international community that Myanmar Government will continue its efforts not only on advancement of women, but also in eradicating gender discrimination in order to protect and promote the rights of Myanmar women.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.