



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

H.E. U Paw Lwin Sein,

Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium and European Union

and member of the Myanmar Delegation

on Agenda Item 85

“The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels”

Before the Sixth Committee of the

68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 10 October 2013)

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Lao PDR on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and also with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary General for his report on **“Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities”** which highlights key achievements and challenges in the rule of law at the national and international levels. My delegation welcomes the outcome document on the rule of law which was unanimously adopted at the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels last year at the General Assembly. We are encouraged to note that there are over 400 voluntary pledges made so far by Member States and observers expressing their wish to strengthen the rule of law mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that Member States can benefit from the United Nations’ assistance, offering a helping hand to their endeavors to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels. Being a country trying to promote rule of law in its transition, Myanmar welcomes the establishment of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group chaired by the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. It is also hoped that the Rule of Law Unit established within the Secretariat of the United Nations will play an active and effective role in coordinating and rationalizing the activities of the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reiterate its full support to the theme of this year Sixth Committee debate “**The Rule of Law and the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes**” under this agenda item. It also falls in line with the choice of this year’s Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which produced an enriched debate on the very theme of “**The Rule of Law at the International Level**”. My delegation believes that regional frameworks can also play an important role in promoting the rule of law internationally. We therefore place high value on the rule of law provisions embedded in the ASEAN Charter which further reinforces measures taken by ASEAN in strengthening the rule of law activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar fully subscribes to the fundamental principle of peaceful settlement of disputes as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It is our firm belief that a fruitful and impartial result could be brought about by peaceful settlement of international disputes in accordance with existing international law and making use of mechanisms such as International Courts and Tribunals. The issue of maritime delimitation between Myanmar and our friendly neighbour, Bangladesh was peacefully and fairly settled last year in accordance with international law through the wisdom of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). It is widely praised and referred to as a success story in the international community and among international legal scholars.

Mr. Chairman,

In our efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the international level, the Government of Myanmar has recently signed or acceded to a growing number of international instruments, including the **Additional Protocol for the IAEA Safeguard Agreement on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**. This is yet another significant development, testifying our commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Our commitment on the rule of law was also demonstrated by our ratification to the **UN Convention against Corruption** and establishment of a national anti-corruption body. As the rule of law and development are mutually reinforcing, Myanmar’s accession to the **Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention)** would benefit the development of our country and ensure the rule of law at the national and international levels in particular to the foreign investors.

Mr. Chairman,

Another remarkable area of cooperation between Myanmar and international community at the multilateral forum is the rule of law and human rights. With a view to protecting and promoting human rights, Myanmar has put in place Human Rights Dialogue mechanisms with a number of countries and organizations to exchange best practices with them. We take pride in the establishment of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, which has newly emerged as one of the five Commissions among ten ASEAN countries.

Mr. Chairman,

At the national level, ensuring the rule of law as well as peace and stability occupies a place of high priority in the on-going reform process of the Government of Myanmar at this critical time of transition. The establishment of the **“Rule of Law and Stability Committee”** by the *Pyithu Hluttaw* (Lower House of the Parliament) in Myanmar is a clear example of our commitment in this area. In addition, a number of existing domestic laws have been reviewed and a series of new laws have already been enacted to be in line with its Constitution and relevant international norms.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar is mindful of the need to adjust all national laws to be in conformity with the international law and its applicable international legal instruments. At this particular juncture, United Nations’ capacity-building and technical assistance play an essential role in our process of drafting new legislations. Myanmar would therefore like to express its appreciation to the UN for the capacity development programmes and for the kind assistance in revising and drafting of laws. Myanmar would welcome such capacity-building programmes, technical assistance and expert advice.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Myanmar would like to place on record our appreciation and gratitude to the Rule of Law Unit for their valuable efforts in strengthening and coordinating rule of law activities as well as for their regular briefing provided to the regional groups here at the UN.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman.
