



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. 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

70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 14 October 2015)

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Mr. Chairman,

1. As I am taking the floor for the first time, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you Mr. Chairman and members of the bureau for your well-deserved elections. My delegation will fully cooperate with you in discharging your important duties. I am confident that under your stewardship, our deliberations in this committee will be of a great input to the process of rule of law and advancements for peace, stability and sustainable development around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the delegate of Iran on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the delegate of Laos PDR on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
3. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on this agenda item. I also thank the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group for their concerted efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

4. This year is significant, as it not only marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations but also coincides with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the historic Summit attended by the highest number of Heads of State and Government in the history of the organization. Many leaders stressed the need for global response rooted in the international law, equality, sovereignty, integrity, dignity and solidarity to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also concurred that political stability, economic development and social progress are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Without peace and stability, there will be no development and, likewise, without development there cannot be peace and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

5. This historic occasion reminds us to take collective responsibility to keep our world in peace, security, stability and sustainable development by advancing rule of law around the world. In this regard, the Government of Myanmar recognizes that national reconciliation and reconsolidation process is a prerequisite for the state's peace and stability. Thus, the government extended an olive branch to all ethnic armed groups in the country. Both sides met several times and conducted extensive negotiations for peace. This has resulted in finalization of the text of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA in August this year. The much anticipated signing of the Agreement between the Government and eight armed groups will be held tomorrow in Nay Pyi Taw. It will be a milestone in our effort to end the six-decade long internal strife and will pave the way for lasting peace. Successful signing of this ceasefire agreement will surely contribute to rule of law and promote justice and equity.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Over the past four years, Myanmar has stepped up legal reform including reviewing existing rules and laws. Since 2011, the Government has enacted or amended 189 laws. Some have been repealed. It was aimed to facilitate reform process and to be in conformity with the regional and international norms. Some prominent laws enacted include Foreign Investment Law, Myanmar Citizens' Investment Law, Central Bank Law, Security and Exchange Law and Myanmar Special Economic Zones Law, among others.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Myanmar is fully aware that the good governance and promotion and protection of the rights of the people are also vital elements to building a democratic and developed nation. While undertaking the various reforms, Myanmar intensified its efforts to promote and protect the rights of the people by undertaking legislative reform, granting amnesties, removing restrictions of activities, allowing greater freedom of expression and so on. Moreover, the enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Law in 2014 has strengthened and reconstituted the Commission in line with Paris Principle. Myanmar is also actively participating in the work of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights- AICHR. In the mean time, the government encouraged the citizens for the enjoyment of equal rights before the law which is guaranteed by the Constitution

Mr. Chairman,

8. In this increasingly inter-connected and globalized world, the role of international law is vital for maintenance of international peace and stability. It is clear that multilateral treaties are essential applications for international law. Multilateral treaties certainly encompass universality, associate international unity and provide accountability on the rights and duties of contracting parties. For this reason, my delegation would like to welcome the theme of the Sixth Committee this year "the role of multilateral treaty process in promoting and advancing the rule of law".

Mr. Chairman,

9. Myanmar attaches great importance to promoting rule of law at national, regional and international level. Since Myanmar regained its independence, we steadfastly uphold the five principles of peaceful co-existence which expounded by China, India and Myanmar together in 1954. We truly believe that these principles serve as basic tenets of international relations for all countries the world over. Myanmar also adheres to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter which we regard as the essence of international law.
10. In this regards, it is my pleasure to inform the Committee that during the tenure of the reformist government, Myanmar has stepped up its efforts to become party to international instruments, especially those related to human rights and disarmament. One of the significant developments was the signing of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement with IAEA in 2013. Myanmar also acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of the Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in 2012. Myanmar acceded to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention-BWC in 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

11. This year, we have taken further steps to join more instruments. In July, we have ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague and signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York. During the recent Treaty Event held on 28 September 2015, Myanmar has signed the Optional Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. It reflects our commitment to move forward in promoting and protecting human rights and our resolve to protect the children from involvement in armed conflict.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Despite the remaining challenges on our path to democratization, Myanmar is striving to achieve the advancement of rule of law at all levels by undertaking a series of reforms including legal reforms, in coordination with judicial and legislative branches, all the stakeholders and international partners including European Union and the United Nations. Myanmar will continue to exert efforts, within its own capacity, to ensuring peace, stability, democracy and sustainable development by strengthening rule of law at national, regional and international level.
13. I thank you Mr. Chairman.