



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ms. Aye Aye Soe**  
**Member of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar to the**  
**Third Committee, on agenda item 56: Advancement of Women**  
( 15 October 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on trafficking in women and girls under A/63/215. We noted that the report not only gives a comprehensive account of measures taken by member states and the activities undertaken by the UN system but also provides useful recommendations. My delegation associates itself with the statement of the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda made on behalf of the G-77 and China on agenda item 56.

Mr. Chairman,

Violence against women has negative impacts not only on the victims but also on society as a whole. Myanmar shares the view that integrated measures need to be taken at the national and international levels to prevent and reduce violence based on gender. It is imperative to give specific attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women. This must include the intensification of efforts to improve the socio-economic situation of women in rural areas.

Mr. Chairman,

In Myanmar, women enjoy equal rights with their male counterparts. Myanmar traditional law guarantees the free and equal rights of women including the rights to own and inherit property. It also ensures secure tenure of property by women. In order to implement the commitments we have undertaken at the Beijing World Conference on Women, the Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs (MNCWA) has been formed. The MNCWA carries out the activities for the advancement of women based on 12 areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To expand the scope and outreach of the work of the Committee down to the grass-root level, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) was formed on 20 December 2003. The MWAFF is a non-governmental organization that has a voluntary membership of over 2.6 million. Its members implement activities promoting women's development based on the guideline set by the MNCWA. Other organizations such as the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association and Myanmar Women Sport Federation are also active in promoting the all-round development of Myanmar women.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar's culture and tradition contribute immensely in the Government's endeavour to protect women and girls from human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence. We fully support the zero tolerance policy with regard to violence against women and girls. In trying to eliminate violence against women, social development is an area of strong focus of the Myanmar authorities. In this regard, the Government together with such organizations as the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, promote policies to ensure that the socio-economic needs and priorities of women and girls are addressed systematically.

Mr. Chairman,

In focusing on empowerment of women, it is important to address the welfare of women in rural areas. In Myanmar, 70 per cent of the entire population resides in the rural areas. In order to promote their welfare and ensure development, the Government has established 24 special development regions. Since the 1990s, five rural development tasks, focusing on economy, transportation, health, education and safe water supply have been laid down.

Mr. Chairman,

Trafficking in persons is a grave issue confronting countries and communities today. Myanmar Government has therefore been seriously tackling the issues. A comprehensive framework that includes strengthening of legislation, a national plan of action, and increased cooperation at the national and international levels has been put in place. Myanmar has acceded to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Although our criminal code contains provisions against trafficking in persons, in order to further strengthen the domestic legislation we have enacted the Anti-human Trafficking Law in September 2005. Between September 2005 and the first quarter of 2008, 239 trafficking cases were prosecuted. Actions have been taken against 637 offenders. Those convicted are liable to maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

Mr. Chairman,

The full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly require integration of gender perspectives in social, political and economic development at all levels. Myanmar is doing its utmost to achieve the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action. Although we have made significant headway, we are not complacent. We are confident that Myanmar working in close collaboration with UN agencies and local and international NGOs, Myanmar will be successful in implementing the platform for action on the advancement of Myanmar women.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.