



# MYANMAR

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

**(New York, 12 October 2011)**



(Please check against delivery)

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**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 able leadership will bring our deliberation to a success.

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for his reports on agenda item 28: "Advancement of Women", including the report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which provide noteworthy information on gender equality. We 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 INGOs, has drawn up National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (2011–2015). 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> combined periodic report to CEDAW which is due in 2014. As the first step for the preparation of this report, Myanmar had conducted 3 dissemination workshops on concluding observations made by the CEDAW Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> combined periodic report submitted in 2008 to make more awareness among all stakeholders.



**Mr. Chairman,**

It is of utmost 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 per cent of the total population. Nowadays, women in Myanmar are enjoying fundamental rights of the citizens. Section 347 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 and shall equally provide legal protection”. Furthermore, section 348 of the Constitution specifies that “The Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, based on race, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth”.

In addition, the Article 120 of the State Constitution also guarantees Myanmar women to attain equal rights with men in political arena. 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 Parliament’s Committees and ministers of states and regions. Besides, several prominent Myanmar women have taken up their duties at the policy making 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 their rights on equal participation with men in three branches of sovereign power 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 subsequent to becoming a state party to CEDAW in 1997. Moreover, Myanmar now has a constitutional government which has created more favourable environment in our endeavour to promote the rights of women.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.