



MYANMAR

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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OF

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE

AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 28:

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

(NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2012)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports under this item. I would also like to thank Deputy Executive Director Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Vice Chair of CEDAW Mrs. Nicole Ameline, and Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA Mrs. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen for their presentations. My appreciations also go to the two thematic Special Rapporteurs for their reports. These reports and presentations provide a good basis for our deliberations on gender equality and advancement of women.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Malaysia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and also with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

In the course of Myanmar's history, the gender equality has never been a big issue in Myanmar mainly due to the fact that Myanmar women traditionally enjoy high degree of equal rights with men. Their rights are being protected by Myanmar tradition and the existing laws. The Government of Myanmar has given more attention to attach higher priority to the elimination of discrimination against women since it acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 22 July 1997. As a state party, Myanmar has made its utmost efforts and steadfastly implemented a series of national level plans for advancement of women. The provisions relating to the fundamental rights including the equal rights of women and duties of the citizens are clearly enshrined in the State Constitution. It ensures that Myanmar women will continue to have full privileges to enjoy these rights. The relevant provisions for the rights and responsibilities of the citizens guarantee that no citizen will be subject to discrimination because of his or her race, native, religion, position, status, culture, gender or financial status.

In order to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, the Government established Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) in 1996 as a national mechanism to effectively implement Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. In addition, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF) was also established on 2 December 2003 as a non-governmental organization to promote the advancement of women with closer cooperation with international, regional and national level non-governmental

organizations. In line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the ten-year National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2012-2021 (NSPAW) is now put in place in Myanmar. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in close collaboration with the UN Gender Theme Group and the Women's Protection Technical Working Group.

Mr. Chairman,

In Myanmar, women constitute 50.3 per cent of the total population. Their role of participation in the country's political process and governance as well as in both public and private sectors of the country has also grown in no small measures in Myanmar. With the emergence of a multi-party democratic system in Myanmar, the number of women parliamentarians in the legislative bodies and female members of Political Parties has increased to a certain level. Some of them are given responsibilities as Chair or members in the various committees of the respective Parliaments. For the first time in our modern history, a woman has been appointed newly as a cabinet minister. She now serves as the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Five other women have also been appointed as deputy ministers in the Cultural, Planning, Social Welfare, Environment and Health ministries. Many government departments are also headed by female director-generals. This is indeed a remarkable and significant development in women's participation in the political system in Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this background, I would like to stress here that the Government of Myanmar is giving greater attention and priority to enhance the role of women and lending full support to the development and empowerment of Myanmar women through the implementation of the Ten-Year National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2012-2021. The advancement of Myanmar women is therefore gaining with momentum these days not only in line with the sound foundation of the historical and cultural traditions of the country but also with the international norms and practice.

Mr. Chairman,

Girls occupy a very important place in our society. They are regarded as the custodians of the family wealth and tradition. Therefore, when we talk about the advancement of women, it is inclusive of the girls. They are so important that their advancement is always given a special attention.

In this regard, we welcome the message of the Secretary-General on the International Day of the Girl Child. The salient part of the message is as follows: *Quote* "Investing in girls is a moral imperative — a matter of basic justice and equality. It is an obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It is also critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, advancing economic growth and building peaceful, cohesive societies" *Unquote*. This loud and clear message deserves our Committee's attention.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by stating that Myanmar, a country undergoing a rapid democratic transition, will redouble its efforts to work more actively for the advancement of women in closer cooperation with the international community in the advancement of women in the country. We also look forward to receiving more assistance from the international community also in this important area.

I thank you for your kind attention.