MYANMAR

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Statement

By

H.E. U Hau Do Suan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations in New York
at 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York
(16 March 2017)

Statement by H.E. U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, at 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (16 March, 2017)

Madam Chair,

I would like to congratulate you for your election as the Chair of the 61st Session of the CSW. Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered by distinguished representative of Vietnam on behalf of the ASEAN, and the statement of G77 and China delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

The theme chosen for the 61st CSW "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work" is most pertinent as we move forward to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal no. 5 to achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

Madam Chair,

In Myanmar, women comprise 51.8 % of the entire population, representing a potential powerhouse for major changes and development in the country. Myanmar's Constitution guarantees all persons equal rights before the law and equal legal protection, and does not discriminate against any citizen on the basis of sex.

Myanmar has ratified and endorsed the major international conventions and agreements on gender equality and women's and children's rights. Myanmar is an active member of the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children.

In 1997, Myanmar became a State Party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and committed to the Beijing Platform for Action. Recently, the Government adopted the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women(2013- 2022) with the objective to create enabling systems, structures and practices for women's advancement, gender equality and women's rights, and to ensure women's equal participation in decision making and leadership at all levels of society.

On the other hand, awareness raising trainings on gender equality and women and girls empowerment have been conducted across the countries.

Myanmar strongly believes that gender equality and women empowerment effectively contribute to economic progress and sustainable development. Therefore, it is vital to ensure that gender equality and women's economic rights are integral to economic policies and institutional settings to generate decent employment for women. More resources should be allocated to the agriculture and informal sectors where most poor women live and work. It is also important to ensure women's inclusion, participation, and leadership at all levels and in all spheres of economic decision making.

At the national level, we have established Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association. These women organizations have been actively engaged in the efforts to advance the cause of women and children in Myanmar.

As Myanmar is striving for peace and national reconciliation, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of the people, gender equality and economic empowerment of women who represent over half of its population is vitally important for the success of the national objectives.

Therefore, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her statement on International Women's Day, highlighted the role of women in the peace making process. She urged Myanmar women entrepreneurs to make the best use of their wealth and proficiency in business for the peace and stability of the country. She called on women's greater participation and involvement in the peace process.

The Government of Myanmar will continue to fulfill its commitments to gender equality and women's rights for achieving the SDGs and sustainability of Myanmar's reform process.

Thank you.

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