MYANMAR

Statement

by

H.E. U Hau Do Suan
Ambassador / Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations

at

the United Nations Security Council Open Debate

Maintenance of international peace and security:

Trafficking in persons in conflict situations

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The United Nations Headquarters – New York

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H.E. U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at
UNSC Open Debate - Maintenance of international peace and security: Trafficking in persons in conflict situations

Mr. President,

1. My delegations thanks the Italian Presidency of the Council for convening this important meeting and for the concept note which paves the way for the effective deliberation of the meeting.

2. My delegation would also like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing as well as Mr. Yuki Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons for their presentations.

3. Myanmar aligns itself with the statement made by Venezuela on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.

4. The menace of trafficking in persons or modern day slavery has increasingly becoming a global threat affecting all countries around the world. We share the deep concern of the Secretary-General on the news reports of African migrants allegedly being sold as slaves at this present time.

5. We welcome the adoption of the political declaration on the implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

6. Myanmar also welcomes the UNODC's Technical Assistance Programmes for Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants to support the Member States to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in close cooperation with the UN country offices and other partners.

Mr. President,

7. The issue of trafficking in persons is increasingly transnational in nature. It cannot be solved by a government alone. We all have to work together for addressing this global menace. Therefore, we encourage all countries to work bilaterally, regionally and internationally.

8. On our part, Myanmar has been stepping up its efforts of combating the issue of trafficking in persons as a national cause over the past 20 years. We are focusing

our actions in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and policy coordination. Anti-trafficking in Persons Law was enacted in 2005. The anti-trafficking law enforcement units has been strengthened, and awareness raising activities have been conducted across the country.

9. Myanmar is closely cooperating with the countries in the region by signing bilateral agreements and establishing appropriate mechanisms. In the regional context, Myanmar ratified early this year the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. As a state party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, we are working closely with countries in the region and also with UN agencies particularly UNODC to fight against trafficking in persons.

10. Myanmar holds the view that cooperation among countries should be strengthened through the accepted legal framework concerning human trafficking. In this regard, I share the observation of the Secretary-General in his report "the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Transnational Organized Crime" which provides a basis for cooperation.

Mr. President,

11. Humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters or conflicts create vulnerable situation for people living in the affected areas for possible victims of trafficking. This phenomenon cannot be solved by actions of the governments alone. We need to engage constructively with private sector. Therefore, I thank the governments of Australia and Indonesia for their initiative for organizing the Bali Process Government and Business Forum in August 2017 to discuss and make recommendations on supply chain transparency, preventing trafficking in persons and modern slavery.

12. In the fight against human trafficking, governments should also give wider space for private sector participation. We should create avenues to enable more private sector participation in the UN forum relating to TIP. I believe that in addition to strengthening legal framework the private sector participation will contribute positively to our efforts to fight against human trafficking.

13. To address the issue of trafficking in persons, taking preventive measure is important. Apart from the extreme circumstances of conflict and natural disaster, poverty, overpopulation and lack of job opportunities in many less developed countries also constitute other root causes of the TIP. Therefore, we encourage all stakeholders to make effective use of the relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda in the

global efforts to combat TIP. The fight against TIP, need to be based on cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destinations. Politicization of the fight against TIP should be avoided. Politicization of the issue would not solve the problem of human trafficking.

Mr. President,

14. The 25 August 2017 terrorist attacks against 30 Myanmar police stations and one military base, and the following terrorist acts triggered one of the most tragic humanitarian situations in Rakhine State.

15. We also share the concerns that people fled across the border to Bangladesh can fall into the hands of the traffickers. With an aim to take measures to prevent such situation, Myanmar participated in the ad-hoc meeting convened by the governments of Australia and Indonesia last month in Jakarta.

16. With a good neighborly spirit, we are working actively with Bangladesh on the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the population who are taking refuge in Bangladesh. The repatriation process will start in 3 weeks after signing a bilateral agreement for the arrangement of repatriation. A joint working group will be set up to coordinate the process of repatriation. We strongly hope to sign the bilateral agreement on repatriation arrangement soon so that the repatriation process could start as soon as possible.

17. While humanitarian situation is much in the focus of the international community, we must not lose sight of the other important facts of the situation in the area, where there are credible evidence of the continued activities of ARSA terrorist group and its affiliates. The terrorist are now taking refuge in their hideouts in the mountains and among the innocent people in the region. Reportedly, they have been funded by people abroad.

18. We all have to be vigilant to deter any trafficker or criminal network exploit this situation for their malicious purposes. Myanmar will make its utmost efforts to preventing people from falling into the hands of traffickers.

I thank you.