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 the Security Council Open Debate on
"Trafficking in persons in conflict situations: forced labour, slavery and other similar practices"

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Mr. President,

Allow me, first of all, to thank you for convening this important open debate. My delegation extends its best wishes for the success of the UK presidency of the Security Council. Myanmar also thanks the Secretary-General for his briefing and other panelists for their presentations.

Mr. President,

Trafficking in persons has become a dire threat to millions of vulnerable and fragile people across the world. The problem of trafficking is woven into many other challenges: conflict; terrorism; organized crime; extreme poverty; sexual violence, against women and young girls; and migrant smuggling. Taking into account the seriousness of the problem, the international community has committed itself to end human trafficking through implementation of specific goals 5,8 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

As far as national efforts to combat TIP is concerned, Myanmar is a state party to various international legal instruments including Convention against Transnational Organizaed Crimes; *Protocol* to Prevent, Suppress and Punish *Trafficking in Persons*, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants and Mutual legal assistance treaty (*MLAT*).

Myanmar has enacted Trafficking in Persons Law in September, 2005. We are now reviewing the law to amend it to be in line with the changing circumstances. Myanmar thanks UNODC for being a strong partner to fight the transnational crimes with close collaboration with the Interpol.

Myanmar has been seriously addressing this issue through a comprehensive framework that includes domestic legislation, a 5 Year - National Plan of Action. We

have recently started the Third - Five year National Plan of Action to combat trafficking in persons (2017-2021). Yearly work plans are developed to implement the National Plan of Action in the key five areas such namely, Policy and cooperation; Prevention; Prosecution; Protection and Capacity building.

Myanmar is also actively taking part in regional efforts to combat human trafficking. We have been working closely with our regional partners the issue through regional mechanisms such as the COMMIT(Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Human Trafficking) Process and the Bali Process on People Smuggling and Human Trafficking and Related Transnational Crime.

Mr. President,

Cessation of Conflicts and building peace is one of the most important solutions to solve the problem of human trafficking.

The democratic Government of Myanmar has made "National reconciliation and peace" one of the country's most important priorities and fully committed to achieving this objective. The Government has pushed forward the peace process by establishing a regular timetable for negotiation through the Union Peace Conferences and opening the dialogues to all ethnic armed Groups. The first session of the Peace Conference also known as 21st Century Panglong was successfully held from 31 August to 3 September 2016. The second session is expected to convene soon once national level political discussions are completed. Recent clashes erupted in Northern Shan and Kachin States have highlighted the importance of achieving peace and even strengthened our firm resolve to move ahead with the peace process to end the conflicts.

We have also taken appropriate measures to prevent potential human trafficking, slavery and labour exploitation in conflict areas. As part of the measures, information sharing campaigns, workshops, and awareness raising seminars about people smuggling and trafficking in persons are being held. Awareness raising pamphlets published in local languages have been distributed. All these activities have been carried out in collaboration with government and UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs and religious groups.

With the rapid inflow of foreign investments into Myanmar, we have been taking measures to avoid labour exploitation and abusive labour practices. In order to better promote and protect the labour rights for our workers, the Government introduces legislation, policies and regulations in conformity with the provisions of relevant ILO Conventions.

Mr. President,

Myanmar will continue to make every effort to combat the menace of human trafficking in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, combining the law-enforcement, human rights and social development perspective as reaffirmed by the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. We also look forward to the review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Let us all continue our collective efforts and cooperative actions to address the issue of human trafficking to make our world a safer and more secure place for all.

Thank you.

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