



MYANMAR

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT
BY
Ms. EI MON SWAI
ADVISOR TO THE DELEGATION
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE
AT THE 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM: (29)
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

(NEW YORK, 13 October 2015)

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Third Committee. I am confident that under your able leadership, this Committee will be guided towards a successful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

Twenty years has passed since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Since then, the issue of equal rights for women has come to the fore, occupying a place of global priority. Yet, the world still witnesses gender inequality and violence against women across the globe.

On the bright side, there is a growing numbers of girls enjoying easier and better access to education than their mothers and grandmothers. More women become engaged in politics, business, education, health and beyond. Despite these advances, women still faces many challenges. More efforts are needed to address those challenges and to create more space for women in decision-making processes at higher levels.

We therefore welcome the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it will provide us the opportunity to create a new platform to empower women and advance their rights as well as to ensure full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Through integration of gender equality into all dimensions of sustainable development and participation of women in development, we will ensure further advancement and empowerment of women.

In this regard, the national efforts of developing countries must be provided enhanced support and partnership for addressing challenges and remaining implementation gaps, especially in such critical areas as women and poverty, education and training, women and health and preventing violence against women.

Mr. Chairman,

In Myanmar, women represent more than half of the total population of 51.4 million people. As such, women can play a crucial role in the country's socio-economic development. Promoting their participation and advancement are obviously of utmost importance for the development of the country. In doing so, the government is making every effort to advance their rights and participation in our political and administrative life in collaboration with the UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

Myanmar women traditionally enjoy equal rights as their male counterparts. Their rights are being protected by both tradition and by Law. All the successive State Constitutions guarantee equal rights for women in accord with the law, including the rights to vote and to run for elections as well as the rights to own property and inheritance. And Myanmar men and

women enjoy equal pay for equal work. New legislations are also enacted to further protect the rights of Myanmar women.

As a State Party to the CEDAW, Myanmar has taken a number of measures for elimination of discrimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls pursuant to the Convention. The Government has been implementing the 10-year National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (2013-2022) with a view to ensuring that all women are empowered and to fully enjoy their rights. It focuses on 12 critical areas of Beijing Platform for Action through 4 strategies, namely research and survey, awareness raising, implementation, budget and policy making.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the country is advancing on the path to a democratic transition, the reform measures have created more conducive environment for the UN and NGOs to work with greater freedom for protection of women and girls. The Government is therefore working closely with the UN-Women, UNFPA and NGOs for promoting gender equality, reproductive rights and protection of women from violence.

Mr. Chairman,

As this year marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security, my delegation wishes to mention some of Myanmar's effort to address conflict-related sexual violence. Myanmar has endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2014.

The drafting of the Law on Anti-violence against Women has reached at its final stage for enactment. In this Law, sexual and domestic violence against women, sexual harassment in work place and public, harmful traditional practices are included with no exception.

Strong legal action is taken against all perpetrators, be they civilian or security personnel, in accordance with the existing laws. Surveys and research projects were conducted to obtain reliable data to facilitate effective measures against sexual violence.

Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) established in 1996 was reinstituted in 2011 in line with the policies of the new government and extended its Committees to the Regions and State Levels. The focal Ministry has set up the Women's Development Division to focus on provision of welfare services in eight different areas of social needs of women and girls. Myanmar has already submitted the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee.

Furthermore, training on awareness of gender and CEDAW were organized by the government in cooperation with UNFPA and a National Social Protection Strategy was also formulated with the technical support of UNICEF in December 2014, incorporating social protection measures for women and children.

Myanmar has also taken serious efforts to combat trafficking in persons threatening the security of women and children at both national and regional levels. Myanmar is the first country in Mekong Region to have enacted Anti-human trafficking law. Necessary mechanisms and effective Law enforcement measures have already been instituted. The Government has also launched awareness campaign across the country to promote understanding about the gender equality, women's rights, menace of human trafficking and sexual violence in cooperation with of INGOs and NGOs. The recent development of the National guidelines on return, repatriation and reintegration of trafficked victims marked a major progress in addressing issues relating to the vulnerable group of women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

In Myanmar, women's participation in government, parliament and business sectors has continued to grow year by year. At present, female dominates male in total population and government employees. Today, women made up of 52.39 percent of the workforce in the government sector. We now have greater number of female members both in legislature and the executive branch than ever before. At present, several women holds cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and Ambassadors. It is most visible in our own Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Myanmar does recognize the need to do more to empower women to further increase their participation in these areas.

With this in mind, International Day of Women is widely celebrated every year in major cities to raise awareness on advancement of women. Last year, Myanmar hosted the Meetings of ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and ASEAN Committee on Women (AWC). Myanmar is also working together with ASEAN in implementing a regional action plan on anti-violence against women. Myanmar has also hosted Global Women's Forum last December to promote the role of women in societies in transition.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a growing recognition that gender equality paves the way for peace, economic growth, social integration and political stability and development.

In concluding, my delegation wishes to emphasize the need for strengthening our partnership to continue effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with the enhanced support of the international community. We believe that it will also contribute to our future endeavours towards the Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

I thank you.
