



# MYANMAR

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**Statement**

**by**

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar to  
The United Nations  
and Member of the Myanmar Delegation**

**on**

**Agenda item 107: Drugs  
of the Third Committee**

**70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 8 October, 2015**

**\*\*Under Agenda item 107: Drugs \*\***

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Third Committee of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to congratulate other members of the Bureau and assure you of my Delegation's full support as you guide the work of the Committee. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Her Excellency Ambassador Karen Tan, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations on behalf of ASEAN, this morning.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The threat of illicit narcotic drugs is a menace that usually thrives on the cost of our young generation and the future of our societies. This is a global menace, which must be solved by global efforts, before the menace destroys the fabric of the human society. Therefore, it is imperative for us to bring forth sustainable solutions to ensure a future free of illicit narcotic drugs. The challenges are immense as it intertwined with the issue of poverty, betterment of livelihoods, social and economic development, good governance, rule of law, access to health, short- medium and long term strategies.

The illicit trafficking of drugs often associated with money laundering and illegal arms trade, as found in different parts of the world. Drug trafficking also fuels insurgencies and armed conflicts. It undermines peace and overall development of a particular region.

In prevention of this scourge of narcotic drugs, it requires multi-sectored and inclusive approach. All stakeholders including the Governments, civil societies, the United Nations, and development agencies as well as health providers must all work collectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The successive Governments of Myanmar have been making its utmost endeavors to eliminate the drug problem as a national duty. The fight against illicit

drugs has always occupied a place of high priority in Myanmar. However, drug problem is still haunting us, just as the problem of stimulant tablets and psychotropic substances which have become a huge challenge for the country and the region.

Myanmar has adopted a series of practical measures to eradicate narcotic drugs in the country based on two strategies: (1) to strive for the eradication of narcotic drugs as a national duty (2) to strive for total eradication of poppy cultivation through development process and promotion of living standards of all the national races residing at the border areas. The supporting pillars of these Strategies are: to make every concerted effort to reduce supply and demand of drugs and enhance various law enforcement measures.

Myanmar is a State Party to UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Myanmar is also a party to Convention against Corruption and also to the 14 UN Conventions on combating terrorism, among many other UN Conventions. Myanmar respects these conventions and implements the provisions of these Conventions in cooperation with the UN agencies in the country.

Myanmar enacted the Trafficking in Persons law since 2005 and has been combating the problems of human trafficking in the country and in the region through appropriate legal frameworks and partnership, setting up specific plan of action and sub plan of action in cooperation with all stakeholders.

As a state party to Convention against Corruption, domestic law has already been effective.

Myanmar has extended the fourth phase of the 5 years Drug Elimination Plan to period of 2018-2019 of the 15 year National Drug Elimination Plan. This is to prevent the situations of re-bouncing poppy opium cultivation, an increasing trend of the use of stimulant tablets among the youth and an emerging trend of the new psychotropic substances.

Opium eradication campaigns were conducted to educate the local populace and to reduce the opium cultivation. The alternative development projects were

implemented for the poppy farmers which can create income generation as well as upgrading of infrastructures, education and health, to develop the rural sector. As a result, the opium cultivation has declined. Despite considerable progress made, we are still tackling some of the challenges faced in installing the alternative plantations as part of the development projects. Often, the geographical barrier is posing obstacles for market access for the local produce, forcing the farmers to turn to lucrative poppy plantation that fetch more easier income than farm produce. The Government has recognized these factors and we have incorporated the tools for addressing these issues, in the short - medium and long term action plans and development projects.

Myanmar believes that in addition to active participation of people and community, bilateral arrangement and cooperation with regional and international community including the UN agencies are essential in combating the drugs problem.

Myanmar signed Country Programme for 2014 to 2017 with UNODC in August 2014 and initiated (5) projects covering:

- (1) Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking ;
- (2) Anti Corruption;
- (3) Criminal justice system;
- (4) Drugs and health;
- (5) Rehabilitation and Sustainable development;

Myanmar values the partnership with UNODC and have also signed the agreement on Partnership against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement – PATROL.

We are using mechanisms such as **six nations MoU on drug Control cooperation in the region** with China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in collaboration with UNODC. Furthermore, the bilateral agreements are effective especially with the neighboring states, as we all know that each country's geographical location has own unique characters and challenges. Myanmar has

bilateral agreements with India, Bangladesh, Laos, China, Thailand and also with Vietnam, Russia Federation, Philippines, respectively.

Regionally, letter of agreement (LoA) on ASEAN-Korean cooperation project for cooperative combat of drug crimes in April, 2014; LoA on Counter Narcotics and Law enforcement between Myanmar and the United States in September, 2014; MoU to participate and cooperate as a member of Asia-Pacific Information Coordination Center on Counter Narcotic Crime (APICC) and Myanmar-Russia Bilateral Drug Control Cooperation Programme 2014 to 2016 in last November were signed, respectively.

Myanmar is proud to be part of the commitment which the ASEAN leaders have made in 2012 to create a Drug-Free ASEAN Community. This commitment has shaped our effort in crafting necessary domestic legal framework. ASEAN is in solidarity in combating against the illicit narcotic drugs.

The UNGASS on the World Drug Problem in 2016 will serve as an important forum to boost the global combat against illicit drugs. We hope this upcoming Forum will bring every success and expected outcome.

In conclusion, we are convinced that through strong regional and international cooperation and with enhanced technical and financial assistance from various partners, we will be able to win our warfare against this global menace to mankind.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

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