



MYANMAR

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Statement by

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Representative of the delegation of
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
on

Agenda Item 58: Questions relating to Information
at the Fourth Committee of
the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 28 October 2015)

Mr. Chairman,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, let me begin by extending my congratulations to you and other members of the bureau on your respective elections.

My delegation associates itself with the Statements made by the distinguished Representative of South Africa on behalf of G77 and China and the distinguished Representative of Thailand on behalf of ASEAN Thailand on behalf of ASEAN.

Myanmar has always valued the important contribution of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in promoting global awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations. We also recognize the continued importance of the Committee on Information in overseeing the United Nations public information policies and activities as well as making appropriate policy recommendations to the General Assembly.

Myanmar expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on questions relating to information (A/70/220) which highlights the achievements of the DPI in promoting the communication campaigns on important issues such as sustainable development Goals, disarmament and peacekeeping operations.

I take note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Information (A/70/21) on the work of the Committee. This year the Committee focused its attention on issues of multilingualism, bridging digital divide, strategic communication services, as well as the promotion of works of the United Nations. We commend, in particular, the progress of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), an initiative aimed at promoting the work of the United Nations, in collaboration with academic institutions, to young people around the world.

In this regard, we extend our appreciation to Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia, the Chair of the Committee, as well as to members of the bureau for their hard work and assiduous efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The relevance of the United Nations will be much enhanced if it can truly connect with the general public. There is no better way of doing so than bringing the work of the United Nations to the people everywhere. The DPI plays an indispensable part in making such connection and reaching out to the people on all three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. In this regard, Myanmar commends the outreach activities of the Department and encourages it to continue doing so. We also encourage it to

strengthen its work to help further promote the positive public image of as well raise the public's level of awareness about the United Nations.

Every year, Myanmar celebrates the United Nations Day on 24 October to highlight our conviction and cooperation with the Organization and to disseminate information to the public particularly to young generations. As we mark the 70th Anniversary, this year celebrations in Myanmar included a photo exhibition of the United Nations activities in Myanmar and elsewhere in the world, pamphlets for young generations and performance by secondary school children. The celebration was attended by high level leadership and organized in close cooperation with UN information center and all UN entities in Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

The abundance of new social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and You Tube means that messages can reach a wider audience much faster. We see the benefit of social media in raising the awareness of the public about the activities of the United Nations. Myanmar therefore supports the efforts undertaken by the DPI in utilizing these social media platforms to complement the use of traditional media in its work.

However, we also have seen that social media can be used as a harmful tool to spread words of intolerance, hatred and hostility as well as extremist teachings and doctrines. In this regard, Myanmar encourages the DPI to give careful attention to accurate reporting of events and continue to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance, in order to counter the spread of extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

Not all countries have access to modern information and communications technology. It is often the case that people are marginalized and socially excluded partly because of limited access to necessary information which leads to lack of opportunities. Myanmar therefore calls upon those countries with advanced communication technology to provide assistance to developing countries to help bridge the digital divide. This will enable them to build the necessary capacity and further develop their information and communications technology in the future.

In addition to the digital divide, a large portion of the world population faces a language barrier. Those who do not speak one of the official languages of the United Nation rely primarily on their national governments to provide them with information on the work of the United Nations. We therefore encourage Member States to help promote the work of the United Nations through disseminating information in their local languages.

Mr. Chairman,

2015 is an important milestone for the United Nations. It marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations as well as the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Myanmar views this as a great opportunity to make people around the world better understand what the United Nations has achieved and is trying to achieve seventy years on. Therefore, we support the preparation that is underway to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “Strong United Nations, Better World”. We also encourage the DPI to further strengthen its efforts in promoting awareness about SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping is often seen as one of the key functions and responsibilities of the United Nations. This undertaking has given the United Nations respect and prominence in public opinion. We note with appreciation that this year, the DPI, in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, held a communications workshop in which information officers from the UN peacekeeping operations participate to discuss issues concerning training and to give presentations on communications issues. I look forward to the further strengthening of DPI’s collaboration with DPKO and DPI on this matter.

And as DPI continues to emphasize the vital role of the United Nations in holding the line of peace in situations of armed conflict throughout the world, so too should DPI be untiring in highlighting the commitment and actions of the UN and Member States in the pacific settlement of international disputes. Such commitment and actions are consistent with the purposes principles of our Organization as stated in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, Myanmar reiterates the importance of accurate and credible information in today’s rapidly changing world. Global interaction and interconnectivity have created massive amount and relentless flow of information. The same goes for the activities of the United Nations. The DPI, as the public voice of the United Nations, has a key role in conveying the right messages of the organization to the global audience. The DPI has the duty to discharge this responsibility with professional integrity and to give due regard to the needs of its developing countries as its clients. Myanmar fully supports the work of the DPI and remains committed to working with all these goals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.