



# MYANMAR

**Statement**

**by**

**Mr. Ye Minn Thein**

**Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of**

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations**

**at the Third Committee of**

**The 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda item 65**

**General Discussion**

**on**

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,**

**Questions relating to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and**

**Humanitarian**

**New York**

**30 October 2015**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
10 E. 77<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10075 • TEL. (212) 744-1271 • FAX (212) 744-1290

Madam Chair,

Thank You for giving me the floor.

Myanmar shares the concerns expressed by many that by end of 2014, 60 million people were forced to be displaced which was the highest level recorded since the Second World War. Similarly, Myanmar was deeply concerned about the sufferings and life-threatening fate of the boat people which occurred last May in the Andaman Sea, as the consequences of people smuggling and human trafficking in our region.

During that time, saving lives was the first priority for Myanmar. In this spirit, we had rescued about 1000 boat people and provided temporary shelters and humanitarian assistance regardless of race and religion. Out of them, about 700 were repatriated with the close cooperation of the country concerned while the verification was on going for the remaining people.

Myanmar has been tackling the issue of people smuggling and human trafficking which occur in our region for more than a decade. To avoid vulnerability and becoming potential trafficked victims, safe migration should be facilitated to prevent resulting in illegal migration. However, imperfect migration policies as well as law enforcement operations can create loopholes, where human traffickers and smugglers can take advantage of this weakness and exploit the migrants, along the supply chain, unfortunately.

In this regard, we would like to highlight the need to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation on combating people smuggling and human trafficking. Furthermore, we need to be mindful of the reports by some agencies and negative media containing speculations and unverified information and figures, since such reports mislead the viewers.

The boat people rescued in Myanmar last May were economic migrants who were seeking greener pastures, had fallen prey to the traffickers. The experiences recounted by the victims who have been rescued had revealed heinous crimes committed by trafficking syndicates. The root cause of the boat people crisis in the Andaman Sea was none other than the problem of trafficking and smuggling of persons in the region. Myanmar for her part, has taken preventive measures, including the exchange of intelligence information with the immediate neighbors, legal action against local and transnational traffickers and extensive awareness campaigns in the areas most at risk.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar has drafted the Trafficking in Persons Law (T.I.P) since September 2005. Combating Trafficking in Person is regarded as the national duty in Myanmar. During this decade Myanmar has engaged actively in the fight against trafficking in persons and people smuggling together with the neighbors and partners through available regional mechanisms and bilateral mechanisms. Five years plans of action and annual programme of work in the areas of policy, prevention, protection, return and reintegration, prosecution are drawn up together with our working partners' agencies, UN and INGOs, NGOs, hands in hands with the relevant stake holders to implement the plans effectively. Central Body for Anti Trafficking in Persons, task forces and relevant institutions are in full operation.

This year, we are reviewing the T.I.P Law and making amendments to some of the provisions, to be in line with actual time and emerging new challenges. Social development goals and economic planning also contributes to tackling poverty and creation of jobs as part of addressing this issue.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar has always been cooperating in good faith with neighbors and international community. We must all work together to effectively address these issues through appropriate mechanisms and collaborations.

I, Thank you. \*