MYANMAR

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Statement

by

Ms. Hmway Hmway Khyne,

Ambassador/ Alternate Representative of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

on Agenda Item 57: Questions relating to information

before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

(Fourth Committee) of the

72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Statement by Ambassador Ms. Hmway Hmway Khyne, Alternate Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Agenda Item 57: Questions relating to information before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (20 October 2017)

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on your assumption as the Chair of the Fourth Committee and all the Bureau members on their election. Myanmar has full confidence in your chairmanship and wishes you every success in steering the work of this important committee.

My Delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Ecuador and Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and ASEAN respectively.

Myanmar appreciates the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information (A/72/258), which mainly reflects the achievements undertaken by the Department of Public Information from March to September 2017 through its three sub-programmes.

We recognize the important role played by the Committee on Information in overseeing the United Nations public information policies and activities. We further commend the successful holding of the 39th session of the Committee last May under the leadership of Amb. Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, Myanmar would like to join others in commending the efforts of the Department of Public Information in raising awareness of the work and activities of the United Nations.

Since now is the time for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is important to ensure that all countries are on board. At the same time, it is crucial to raise awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals so that all stakeholders accurately understand these global goals.

Therefore, we would like to note with appreciation the initiatives of the Department to raise awareness on the SDGs goals along with the Paris Agreement on climate change and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development by leveraging its communication campaigns**.** While rendering our full support, we would like to encourage DPI to continue these efforts.

We further recognize the efforts made by the Department, in coordination with DPKO, DFS and other UN entities, to produce a system-wide website for the purpose of combating sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel.

As a contributing country to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Myanmar supports every effort that strengthens DPI's collaboration with DPKO, DFS, the Department of Political Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Mr. Chairman,

Information connects people across the world without any boundaries. Furthermore, dissemination of effective reliable information is vital for realizing peace and security.

We must also be aware of the harmful effects and consequences arising from "fake news" that can spread words of intolerance, hatred and hostility as well as extremist ideas. It is noteworthy that challenges posed by the rapidly changing media landscape become enormous. At the same time, there are also threats of inappropriate use of these modern information and communication technologies and potentials for the politicization of public information.

Therefore, it is important for the Committee on Information to mobilize the DPI in the global efforts to promote factual, accurate, dependable and reliable information.

Furthermore, as highlighted in the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN, we would like to encourage DPI to continue its role as "a responsible messenger of the UN" to provide us with factual, accurate, dependable and reliable information.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the rapid advancements of information and communication technology, we must not lose sight of the peoples living in the developing countries, especially those in the least developed countries, who are not fortunate enough to enjoy the modern technology. To this light, Myanmar joins others in calling for the UN to maintain its usage of traditional means of disseminating information.

Myanmar also calls upon those countries with advanced communication technology to work with developing countries in sharing knowledge and technology in order to bridge the digital divide. This will enable us to build capacity necessary to further develop our information and communication technology.

Moreover, in developing countries, language remains a barrier to communication. Therefore, Myanmar recognizes the important role of Multilingulaism in promoting unity in diversity and international understanding. It will further connect the United Nations with people.

Mr. Chairman,

Every year, Myanmar celebrates the United Nations Day on 24 October to underscore our commitment and support to the Organization and to disseminate information to the public, particularly to the young generation. It is organized in close cooperation with UN Information Centre and all UN entities in Myanmar. Moreover, Myanmar also commemorates ceremonies in observance of International Days.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Myanmar would like to stress its unwavering support to the work of the DPI and remains committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve our common goals. We are confident that DPI, as the public voice of the United Nations in conveying the right messages of the organization to the global audience, will enhance its efforts to assist developing countries in confronting their challenges.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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