MYANMAR

Please check against delivery

Statement

by

Ms. Ei Ei Khin Aye,

Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative of the

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

on Agenda item 3(a) "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all"

at the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development

New York

(1 - 10 February 2017)

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
10 E. 77th Street, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10075 • Tel. (212) 744-1271 • Fax (212) 744-1290

Statement by Ms. Ei Ei Khin Aye, Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on agenda item 3(a): "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all" at the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 6 February 2017)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to inform that my delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chair,

Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement on our way to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals. It remains a serious challenge in the least developed countries and even gets worse when affected by conflicts and natural disasters. The 2030 Agenda aims to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and therefore poverty eradication must be mainstreamed into all social, economic and environmental dimensions and tackled through coherent and coordinated approach.

As a multi-ethnic country, the poverty eradication in Myanmar's context is to build national reconciliation as a firm foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

In this perspective, in accordance with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint 2025, Myanmar is working towards realizing the values and benchmarks of the blueprint through our national plans on education, health and social welfare, rural development, infrastructure development and most importantly, poverty eradication.

We consider education as a key catalytic factor in improving other sectors such as health, nutrition, women empowerment, micro, small and medium enterprises and job creation in our quest to eradicate poverty and ensure sustained growth. In this direction, non-formal education programmes and vocational education have been introduced and promoted across the country to ensure that under-privileged children and youth get access to education and better livelihood.

Regarding healthcare, we are working on the implementation of the National Health Plan (2017-2021) that aims to extend access to a Basic Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) to the entire population by 2020 with an increased financial protection.

The government is also working towards promoting the rights of Myanmar workers in accordance with international norms and practices. National laws on workers' rights were reviewed, revised as necessary and promulgated anew. Under the Social Security Law 2012, we are effectively implementing a number of social protection programmes to benefit our workers. Projects on promotion of occupational safety and healthy workplace are underway in cooperation with our development partners.

Mr. Chair,

The importance of promoting the interests of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons lies at the centre of social development. Myanmar believes that inclusive social development strategy will promote our efforts in addressing poverty. Myanmar's Constitution accords women to enjoy equal rights as men. I am delighted to say that the proportion of women participation in the governments and legislatures of some regions and states have significantly increased.

Positive developments also take place regarding the elderly people and the people with disabilities. The law on elderly people has been enacted recently to protect their well-being and the National Strategy for the Development of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025 is under implementation, followed by the promulgation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015.

Mr. Chair,

We all share the view that there is no 'one-size fits all' approach in the pursuit of sustainable development for all. Strategies towards sustainable development should reflect national contexts, priorities, capacities and fiscal constraints, however, it is always beneficial to share and learn from experiences and good practices among countries. The need to mobilize financial and human resources remain significant challenges for developing countries and we look forward to overcome it through inclusive and effective collaboration with the international community and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

I thank you.

*****