MYANMAR

Statement by

Mr. Ye Minn Thein, Minister Counsellor,

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

to the United Nations

on

Agenda item 107: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
and

Agenda item 108: International Drugs Control

(Third Committee)

4 October 2017

United Nations, New York

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Madam Chair,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statement made by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

Being a party to Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and protocols as well as all three UN Conventions on Drugs, Myanmar has been implementing steadfastly the provisions contained in these Conventions. In this regard, we are working closely with the relevant UN entities including UNODC as well as with Interpol.

Transnational organized crimes pose threat to peace and human security, potential human rights violations and also undermine social, economic and political development of the people around the globe.

Myanmar is tackling the problems of terrorism, money laundering, corruptions, smuggling of wild life, drugs and human trafficking, through relevant mechanisms and with international actors.

In the fight against human trafficking, we focus our actions in the areas of policy and cooperation, prevention, protection and prosecution through 5 years Plan of Action with annual work plans on each area as mentioned. We have been taking this challenge head-on, hand in hand with international partner organizations such as IOM, UNODC, UNICEF, UNDP, relevant INGOs, Save the Children, World Vision to name a few, and appreciates their support to the Government's Action Plans to rid of this menace from the land and from the region.

Madam Chair,

The problem of narcotic drugs corrodes the public health, socio economic development, justice, peace and tranquility and have been threatening the human security at large. 30th UNGASS on World Drug Problem held in April, 2016 urged the member countries to lay down a plan of policy that include public health oriented approach and development led approach in solving the drug problem.

The government practicing a new drug control policy which includes balanced and integrated multi-sectoral approaches in line with recommendations of UNGASS, in order to protect the health and welfare of human beings.

The fight against narcotic drugs has always been one of the top priorities of the Government of Myanmar. It is designated as a national duty. Successive government has strived to eliminate this problem but poppy cultivation is still taking place in various forms. Moreover, with the illegal inflow of precursor chemical used for manufacturing narcotic drugs from other countries, the effort to fight against elimination of methamphetamine (ATS) is another serious challenge Myanmar is facing.

Myanmar addresses the narcotic drugs issue through Three tactics, namely; supply reduction, demand reduction and law enforcement strategies, and more over as a problem of public health, emphasizing health and youth, human rights and development.

Madam Chair

Relevant committees are formed at various levels to effectively deal with the issue. We have established (10) working groups namely Law Enforcement and Administration, Alternative Development, Substituted-Crops, Livestock Breeding, Medical Treatment, Rehabilitation, Educating Students and Youths, Public Awareness, International Relations and Supervising Controlled Precursor Chemicals. They are working together actively to reduce the production and use of narcotic drugs.

Moreover, the government is striving to improve transportation and communication facilities between mainland and the border area and to uplift the economic and social life of the national races residing in the border area where most of the poppy cultivation and production of methamphetamine are taking place. These efforts will complement the works of the working groups particularly working groups on alternative development and substituted-crops.

Madam Chair

The government is taking strong measures for raising awareness on the danger of narcotic drugs among school children and youths. Information on dire consequences of using drug has already been included in the life skills curriculum for children at school. Public debates and exhibitions are also organized to raise awareness.

Law enforcement is another area the government pays high attention on. Myanmar Armed Forces, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department are the responsible entities to combat narcotic drugs in Myanmar. Drug Enforcement Division is being formed under Myanmar Police Force and its (3) Sub Divisions and (50) Units are placed in areas around the country where production and trafficking of drugs are found to be highest and along the border areas.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the victims of the narcotic drugs. The government established 26 drug treatment centers, 47 drug treatment stations and 2 youth rehabilitation centers all over the country. Necessary treatment services have been provided to the drug users in cooperation with the international institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to reduce the harm consequences.

Madam Chair

For, reduction of demand side, Myanmar is cooperating closely with countries bilaterally and within sub-region and region such as Greater Mekong Sub Region, BIMSTEC and ASEAN to combat narcotic drugs. Myanmar has also signed bilateral agreements with India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Russia, Laos PDR, China, Thailand and the United States of America to jointly combat narcotic drugs.

Additionally, Myanmar has joint endeavors with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand, Australian Federal Police (AFP) and National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China. Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) have been set up along Myanmar-China, Laos and Thailand borders to enable relevant agencies for exchanging information on combating narcotic drugs.

Madam Chair

Problem of the narcotic drugs is a global menace. A country alone cannot overcome the problem. Let's work together to fight against narcotic drugs and to become a world free of narcotic drugs.

I thank you.

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