# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ms. Aye Thidar Myo,**

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**on Agenda Item 28(a): Advancement of Women**

**at the 3rd Committee of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly**

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the Statements made by Ecuador on behalf of G-77 and China, and Thailand on behalf of ASEAN. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted under this agenda item.

Since the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Platform action, the world has witnessed significant achievement of advancement of women. However, there remains much to be done. Gender discrimination is still in arises throughout the world. One in three women had experienced violence or sexual exploitation or some other form of discrimination. Women are working longer hours than man, but they are paid less than of their counterpart male workers. There are more and more women and girls affected by the conflicts. Violence against women and girls are still increasing as a byproduct of the social media age. We must ask ourselves why those issues are still challenging our efforts towards gender equality.

We had put priority the role of women in the social, economic and political environment of the nations. But, there were shortfalls in mainstreaming a gender perspective into national development strategies in achieving gender equality. Therefore, gender equality and the empowerment of women are set as a cross-cutting theme for all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). If we are to turn our SDG vision into the mission, robust and efficient national strategies must be put in place.

**Advancement of Women in Myanmar**

Myanmar has endured decades of armed conflict and suffered from years of under development. Accordingly, we set a clear vision: to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation. To turn this vision into the mission, the role of its citizens is the essential driving force. Since we are striving towards a people-oriented society, women empowerment is one of the key factors for the mosaic of stable and harmonious society.

Therefore, we are working hard to put gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of our national development strategies. We are committed to steadfastly implementing the provisions of the CEDAW. Currently,

we are working with UN Gender Theme Group (UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP); and over 100 NGOs and CSOs, such as Gender Equality Network and Women Organizations Network for women development.

Our 10-year national strategic plan for the advancement of women (2013-2022) covers key areas of the UN agenda for women's empowerment, such as violence against women and girls; women and participation, women, peace and security and gender mainstreaming.

Through advances in the fields of healthcare and education, we are also addressing issues including the lowering the maternal and infant mortality rates and enhancing access to education.

**Development of Rural Women**

The Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) calls on State Parties to take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against rural women in some areas. In Myanmar seventy percent of population is living in rural area. Women in the rural areas mainly involved in the agriculture sector, and they contribute significant amount towards agricultural production and food security of the nation.

Since 2012, in collaboration with World Bank, Community Driven Development Project –CDD has been implemented. The CDD project is designed for mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the rural area development projects.

Among other targeted projects for the development of the rural women population, i-women mobile application is a good example of combing information technology, human aspiration in the environment of every enlarging democratic space. The application was co-developed by Myanmar tech women, rural women members of May Doe Kabar (the World belong to the Women) National Network of Women and UNDP innovators. The application helps women, particularly in the rural areas to solve the problem where they do not have enough access to knowledge resources, contacts, networks and mentors that foster their economic empowerment and social standing in the community.

**Violence against Women and Girls**

As I mentioned before, violence against women and girls is a rising issue in the global society. Myanmar is no exception. Therefore, based on recommendations made by the researchers on violence against women, we are developing a draft Law on Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women, with the cooperation of UN Gender Theme Group. The draft Law will cover action against all forms of violence against women and girls such as sexual abuse, domestic violence, harassing in the workplace and the public, violence by harmful practices. The draft law will be submitted to Parliament in the upcoming session.

Numbers of One Stop Women Support Centers (OSWSC) were set up in the vocational training centers in Yangon and Mandalay to support women and girls who have experienced violence. The victims can get physical, legal and psychosocial support. Moreover, national helplines for reporting violence against women and girls have been established since 2016.

We still face internal conflicts in remote areas. Women affected by that situation need to receive moral encouragement and to be empowered. Therefore, the government is conducting vocational training centers in IDPs shelters in conflict-affected areas such as Kachin and Rakhine States.

**Trafficking in Persons**

All over the world, women and children constitute the majority of the victims of trafficking in persons. It is one of the major challenges that obstruct efforts for socio-economic development of the nations.

In addressing the trafficking in person cases, Myanmar pays its focus on prevention, protection, and prosecution.

In Myanmar, the majority of the victims is trafficked into neighboring countries for forced marriage, forced labour, and forced prostitution. Myanmar signed MoUs with the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Thailand in 2009 to prevent trafficking in persons. Moreover, Myanmar ratified ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), the first convention of the ASEAN member states.

Myanmar formed the Central Body against Trafficking in Person (CBTIP) to strengthen counter-trafficking. The CBTIP developed some five-year Nation Plan of Action continuously in previous years and had approved the 3rd NPA (2017-2021) so far. According to the 3rd NPA, the CBTIP is to implement the four pillars: Policy and Cooperation, Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, women, regarded as a vulnerable population in society are actually the driving force of our nation-building efforts and for a successful transition towards the peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation. Therefore, despite the challenges, by making use of this valuable resource of women and girls, we will work towards the successful implementation of the targets we have set for gender advancement in the nation and beyond.

I thank you.

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