MYANMAR

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Statement by Ms. Pwint Phyu Thinn,
Advisor of the Myanmar Delegation to the 72nd Session of
the United Nations General Assembly,
on Agenda Item 27 (B), on Social Development,
at Third Committee

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Madame Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, allow me to begin by congratulating you and the members of Bureau for the election. Myanmar aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the reports submitted to the General Assembly under this agenda item.

Youth Development

Madame Chair,

Social development is at the core of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The youths are the future of our country. Myanmar places an emphasis on social development, and cultivates and promotes all-round physical, intellectual and moral development of youths. Youth development programmes are being implemented with the support and cooperation of the UN Agencies. Youth centers and voluntary primary night schools are opened for children who cannot attend schools in day time for various reasons. The government subsidizes technical and financial supports for these centers and schools. We have reviewed the Child Law, and to meet the changing circumstances, new draft Child Right Law has been submitted to the Parliament for its approval.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is drawing the Youth Policy with an aim to develop Myanmar Youths to become *multi-developed citizens* in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Madame Chair,

Our new government has placed national reconciliation and peace process as top priorities of the country since it came into office in March 2016. In order to allow all the people to participate in the peace process, it is necessary for the government to know how people view the peace process. For whom is peace most important? It is of utmost importance for youths. Because they are the future of the country. In this spirit, our State Counsellor participated in peace talks with youths

twice in early this year. She stressed their importance in the path towards peace and calling them the "backbone of the country".

During the deliberation we have had here yesterday and today, we are encouraged to hear the voices of the youth delegates. We should encourage more participation of the youths in similar forums as young people are agents of change identified by the Secretary General in his report.

Caring older people

Madame Chair,

Regarding the ageing people, it is a traditional custom for a family in Myanmar to assume responsibility for the well-being of its aged family members. There also exists social and religious obligation on the part of local communities to look after the older people. The Plan of Action for Older Persons was adopted in June 2014 to better protect older persons and promote their well-beings. The older person law was drafted with the support of international and local consultants. The Law was enacted in December 2016. In addition to providing services to older persons such as social and health care, old aged development, recreation and nutrition programmes, the government is also providing monthly cash assistance to older persons who are above 90-year-old.

Promoting Rights of Persons with disabilities

Madame Chair,

Myanmar ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on 7th December, 2011. Then, Myanmar enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law on 5th June, 2015. Sign Language Supporter Training and Sign Language Service have been introduced. Arrangements have been made to ensure social participation of Persons with Hearing Disabilities. Furthermore, in cooperation with Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association, the Department of Social Welfare published CEDAW in Sign Language version. It is also in a process to publish UNCRPD and the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Sign Language version. On the other hand, special schools are opened for visually impaired persons.

The government is also conducting awareness raising programmes related to discrimination, neglect and violence on the basis of disability throughout the country. Moreover, advocacy meetings are being organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the employers to provide job placement and income as per described in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law. Likewise, pre-job trainings, livelihood programmes, income generating programmes and social protection benefit programmes are being put in place.

Madame Chair,

Myanmar believes that social development is one of the essential components for achieving the goal of lasting peace and sustainable development. Let's work together for achieving our common goal in the field of social development.

I thank you.

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