# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ms. Pwint Phyu Thinn,**

**Advisor of the Myanmar Delegation to the 74th Session of**

**the United Nations General Assembly**

**on Agenda Item 53: Comprehensive Review of the Special Political Missions**

**at the Fourth Committee of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and Mr. Atul Khare, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, for their comprehensive and informative briefings.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Morocco and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and ASEAN respectively.

We express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report of Overall Policy Matters pertaining to Special Political Missions, which includes efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and women's equal participation as well as youth participation.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar noted the important role of special political missions that can contribute to maintaining and promoting international peace and security and to supporting national and regional efforts in that regard. We also noted that the newly established Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat with the integration of the Peacebuilding Support Office is facilitating the closer engagement of special political missions with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the Secretary-General's ongoing reform efforts would help special political missions to better deliver on their mandates as well as to strengthen the focus on conflict prevention and sustaining peace. The inclusive and interactive dialogue on overall policy matters related to Special Political Missions is crucial for effectiveness of the missions. Therefore, we are of the view that it would be better if member states are reached out prior to the holding of such dialogue to assure extensive and meaningful participation.

Increasing women's participation and empowerment in political processes as well as in peacemaking and peacebuilding are important. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's commitment to improving the representation of women in field-based special political missions. In addition, with the recognition that youths are the majority of the population in countries with ongoing peace process, we welcome the increasing engagement between special political missions and youths.

Mr. Chairman,

From 1995 to 2016, three Special Envoys had been appointed under the Good Offices role of the Secretary-General with the intension to help Myanmar in its democratization process. We worked together with the UN mandate holders in good faith throughout those years.

In the same vein, the Government of Myanmar is cooperating with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in addressing the Rakhine issue. Moreover, the Government facilitated the opening of the Office of the Special Envoy in Nay Pyi Taw in 2018 and it is fully functioning at present.

We noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General's report highlighted the Special Envoy's engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including national authorities, regional and international partners, affected populations and civil society. Moreover, we noted with appreciation that the report also included the status of the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR to facilitate bilateral efforts to create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government has been extending its full cooperation for the visits of the Special Envoy to Myanmar for eight times and the ninth visit is being planned in this November. During her visits to Myanmar, the Government arranged series of meetings with the relevant authorities and stakeholders from various communities and also arranged visits to Rakhine and Kachin States to see and understand the situation on the ground.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Myanmar has taken a holistic approach to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the issue of Rakhine State. While we are doing our best to resolve the complex issues and address the root causes in Rakhine, cooperation from the international community is also important. Recently, during the 10$^{th}$ ASEAN-UN Summit in Bangkok on November 3, 2019, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi underscored that the Government of Myanmar will not circumvent its responsibility to take care of the security and rights of all those who must be protected. We are fully committed to continuing our work with the help of our friends who approach the issue of Rakhine in a practical and balanced way.

Mr. Chairman,

While presenting the Secretray-General's Report on Myanmar at the Third Committee, the Special Envoy stated that it is important to recognize progress and help build on any positive momentum. She also underscored the commitment and promising steps taken by the Government of Myanmar in terms of the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission led by the late Dr. Kofi Annan including the adoption of a national strategy on the closure of IDP camps, greater transparency in the repatriation process, MoU with the UNDP and the UNHCR, the improvement in access to more locations covered under the MoU for Quick Impact Projects (QIPS) that aimed at supporting recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities in Rakhine State.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Secretary-General's observation that the cooperation of host countries and other stakeholders as well as the support of the wider United Nations membership is essential for achieving the better contribution of SPMs in advancing conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

We are confident that the existing mutual trust and understanding and the spirit of cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Special Envoy will continue and contribute to our commitment to finding a peaceful and lasting solution for the challenges in Rakhine State. We wish the ongoing reform and strengthening of the United Nations system would favourably support the Special Envoy in better delivering her mandates.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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