



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

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and

Chairman of the Myanmar Delegation to the

Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

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Mr. President,

I wish first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. Your great experience in international relations convinces us that this session would have a fruitful outcome. My delegation pledges its support and full cooperation in your endeavours for the success of this historic session. I should also like to convey to the Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan the expression of deep appreciation for his efforts in promoting the noble ideals and causes of our Organization.

Mr. President,

The strength of our organization lies in its universality and legitimacy anchored to the Charter of the United Nations and in the fundamental principles of international law. Among these cardinal principles are -- respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, non-interference in internal affairs of other states and the non-use or threat of use of force.

Mr. President,

International issues today are of such a scale and complexity that they can be solved only through multilateralism and by collective action founded on the values of solidarity and universality as embodied in the United Nations. Only by working together can we hope to discharge our responsibility. We must at the same time display credibility by having the United Nations adapt to global realities of the 21st century.

The High-level Plenary Meeting provided a useful impetus to meeting the goals and challenges of the 21st century. The Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit included measures to strengthen the United Nations. My delegation wishes to underscore the need to preserve and promote the centrality of the General Assembly as the highest deliberative and decision-making organ of the United Nations. Myanmar also agrees that the Security Council should be reformed to reflect the world reality so as to be effective. Since the Council has primary responsibility for world peace and security, expansion should be managed with utmost seriousness. Any decision should be arrived at by the broadest possible agreement of the membership.

In the reform process, we must avoid the introduction of new concepts that have no basis either in the Charter or in international law. The acceptance of these concepts will go against the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference, which form the very basis of the international relations system.

Mr. President,

I am happy to see that the Outcome Document contains elements that we hold dear. The Document, in particular, underscores the obligation of all Member States to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations. Charter provisions provide the needed principles for use of force as a last resort. We have always strongly held the view that Article 51 of the Charter, which deals with rights of individual or collective self-defence, should not be rewritten or reinterpreted.

We feel, however, that there are still some areas that should be further revisited in order to address our concerns.

Regarding the establishment of the Peace Building Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body, we strongly feel that there must be adequate representation by developing countries in the forming of the Organizational Committee. Developing countries have a strong case since they are major contributors of military personnel and civilian police to the United Nations missions.

Mr. President,

In strengthening the Human Rights Mechanism, we must address the root causes, namely, the use of selectivity, double standard and politicization. It must be borne in mind that the Charter places Human Rights in the context of international cooperation. During this Session, we shall be considering the mandate, modalities, function, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures for the envisaged Human Rights Council. Given the importance that we all place on human rights, developing countries must play an active role in the negotiation process. We would like to see the initiation of open, transparent and inclusive negotiations at an early date.

Mr. President,

The threats we face today do not respect national boundaries, are interconnected and complex. Terrorism, illicit drugs trafficking, transnational organized crime, weapons of mass destruction, poverty and hunger, and the alarming spread of highly infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, are some of the threats we can ignore only at our peril. Efforts and strategies to tackle transnational issues need to be co-ordinated at all levels, and carried out with the necessary respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

My country is a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It has enacted legislation to control money laundering and to render mutual legal assistance to combat transnational crimes. It is a State Party to almost all of the United Nations conventions on terrorism. It has also actively participated in regional and international efforts against international crime.

Mr. President,

Myanmar is against all forms and manifestations of terrorism. Myanmar is of the view that terrorism should be combatted in accordance with international law and obligations. The issue should not be used as a pretext for intervention in internal affairs of other states.

Sixty years after World War II, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, remains a formidable challenge. Nuclear proliferation is on the increase and there is also considerable concern that non-state actors would gain access to such materials and technologies.

All states must take action in a multilateral framework to make substantive progress towards disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and nuclear weapons states should reaffirm their commitment to Negative Security Assurances *vis-a-vis* non-nuclear states.

The Outcome Document, however, failed to address the important issue of disarmament and non-proliferation. This is an issue of great importance and we should make every effort so that this vital issue would not be side-lined in the international fora.

Mr. President,

The 20th Special Session on Narcotic Drugs emphasized that no single state can combat the scourge of narcotic drugs on its own. In my country, the problem of narcotic drugs is a bitter colonial legacy.

We have therefore made elimination of narcotic drugs a national responsibility and formulated strategies and tactics to end the problem of opium poppy cultivation through a 15-year comprehensive plan and the supplementary New Destiny Project.

These efforts have resulted in drastic reduction in opium poppy production. As a result, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported a 73 per cent decline between 1996 and 2004. Myanmar's efforts to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation,

opium and heroin production, drug trafficking and abuse, complement the objectives set down by the United Nations.

Myanmar is also taking urgent measures with its neighbouring countries to exercise control over illegally trafficked precursor chemicals used in the production of synthetic drugs. We have developed bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation in the sub-regional, regional and international context.

Mr. President,

The world leaders pledged in their Millennium Declaration that the world in 2015 would be a better world from the one that we live in today. They made solemn commitments to implement the Millennium Development Goals.

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), both the developed and developing countries must act in a cooperative manner. The developed countries, in particular must fulfil their commitments and meet the internationally agreed ODA target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP. It is also necessary that debt relief be provided to developing countries including grant-based financing and 100 per cent debt cancellation.

In Myanmar, we are making satisfactory progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In our drive to eradicate poverty we have achieved significant results through designation of 24 special development zones in the States and Divisions of the country to achieve equitable and balanced development throughout the country. Myanmar is endeavouring to achieve development mainly relying on its own resources without assistance, particularly, from international financial institutions. With external financial assistance our development efforts can be accelerated.

Mr. President,

Myanmar is a multi-ethnic nation comprising over a hundred races. Immediately after independence, the country had to face the scourge of insurgency. This has posed a serious impediment in our national development endeavours. Based on the bitter lessons from the past, we have today embarked on a programme for the prevalence of law and order and stability of the nation. As we are able to build peace and stability, we have been able to focus our attention on economic development, giving priority to human resource development. While endeavouring for a comprehensive development of the country, we are at the same time implementing a seven-step political programme for a smooth transition to a democratic State.

In this regard the understanding and support from the international community would enable us to achieve our cherished goal more expeditiously. Unwarranted pressures will however delay our progress. We on our part are resolute in our determination to achieve our goal of establishing a modern prosperous democratic State.

Mr. President,

Myanmar is poised at the threshold of a new era. The much yearned for democratic union is now within sight. We are at a point in time during which all our attention must be devoted to crossing the threshold and entering a new era.

Thank you.