



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

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of the Union of Myanmar

at the Third Committee

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on Agenda Item (70) (b)(c) (e):

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

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Mr. Chairman,

The efforts of the international community over several decades to give effect to promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms have had some measures of success. We have gone beyond the standard setting phase and a mechanism has been established in the United Nations system to promote and protect human rights, strengthened by eight treaty bodies. We will have two more treaty bodies when the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances enter into force. We have been able to make these remarkable strides principally because we were able to work together in accordance with the purposes of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

It is only through genuine international cooperation that we can advance efforts to effectively promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. With the advent of the Human Rights Council, it is our hope that confrontation among states on the question of human rights will diminish and prospects for cooperation would grow. We are encouraged that the Human Rights Council has reached agreement on institutional building. As a result, the Universal Periodic Review, one of the most important components of the Council Structure, would develop into a constructive mechanism dealing with the full range of human rights in cooperation with States. However, on the other hand there is a continuing tendency in the Third Committee to selectively target developing countries. This is a matter of deep concern as such practices can compromise the credibility of the Committee and undermine its work.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the widely-held view in the Committee that country-specific resolutions are counterproductive, there are still glaring attempts to single out countries. Such attempts will only weaken the international cooperation and detract from the laudable efforts to strengthen the existing human rights machinery of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that genuine and effective international cooperation will not be possible unless there is a profound understanding of the various problems and challenges facing different countries. At the same time, their political, economic and social realities also need to be taken into account when their human rights situations are examined. The aim of this examination should be to enhance the capability of the country concerned to promote human rights rather than finger pointing particularly based on information which cannot be substantiated. In his address to the first session of the Human Rights Council last year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar stated "In the consideration of a country's situation,

the validity and credibility of source of the information used as a basis should be one of the criteria for the allegations' acceptability." Indeed unverified allegations should not be considered a basis for judging a country's human rights situation. In this regard, we are encouraged that the process of Universal Periodic Review plans to broaden its information sources to become more inclusive.

Mr. Chairman,

International cooperation promotes friendly relations among states. Likewise, friendly relations can enhance international cooperation. Similarly if we can achieve genuine and constructive international cooperation in the field of human rights, the necessary climate will be created at the national and international levels to ensure the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom by all. Such a climate can hardly be achieved through unbridled criticism, particularly when such criticism is unwarranted. The latest attempt in the Third Committee to introduce a country-specific resolution on Myanmar shows that confrontation continues to be the preferred approach of some countries. It is a matter of deep regret that such negativity continues.

Mr. Chairman,

The current situation in Myanmar is delicate and complex. As a result of the protracted insurgencies that beset the country until recently, the challenges facing the country are not susceptible to easy solutions. This has been rightly pointed out by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

The special procedures mechanism is one of the most effective tools in the United Nations action in the field of human rights. The effectiveness of this mechanism cannot be overemphasized. The work of special procedures mandate holders have become more effective over the past several years as coordination and cooperation among themselves have increased. However, we are concerned that this procedure may unwittingly become a vehicle for promoting the disinformation campaign against member countries by relying principally on the information provided by anti-government elements.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to development is a universal and inalienable right. It is also integral part of fundamental human rights. The challenge for developing countries is to make the enjoyment of such rights a reality. A State's capacity to realize human rights, including the right to development is further weakened when it faces a variety of challenges in its national development efforts. In the case of Myanmar, unilateral sanctions place impediments in its path to development. These sanctions are tools aimed at disrupting the country's economy and its

society. Thousands of Myanmar women have lost their jobs as the county's textile industry has been adversely affected by the sanctions imposed by Western countries. The countries that are leading the charge to take Myanmar to task through a country specific resolution, purportedly champions of human rights, are the same countries that deprive the country of its right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by the progress made by the Working Group on the Right to Development and its Task Force. We commend them for their work and support the Working Group's recommendation for the active participation of international financial, trade and development institutions since their role is as equally important as effective national development policies to implement the right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Charter places human rights in the context of international cooperation. It is only through cooperation that we can ensure that people everywhere enjoy political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Thank you.