

Myanmar

Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar

47, Avenue Blanc, 1202 Geneva, (022) 906 9870 - 906 9871

Check against delivery

Statement

by

U Nyunt Swe,

**Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Union of Myanmar**

at the

Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

I would like to share with the Council the recent political developments in Myanmar relating to the successful conclusion of the National Convention on 3 September 2007.

On 30 August 2003, the Government of Myanmar outlined a seven-step road map for transition to democracy. The first crucial step of the road map was the reconvening of the National Convention. The final session of the National Convention, resumed on 18 July 2007 is successfully concluded. It has adopted the basic principles and detailed basic principles of the remaining seven chapters of the Constitution. Now, all the basic principles of 15 chapters of the Constitution have been adopted.

The new Constitution will be drafted based on these adopted principles. Thereafter, the draft Constitution will be presented to the people in a referendum. Subsequently, free and fair elections will be held in which the people of Myanmar will elect leaders of their choice. Thus, the process of transformation of the country into a democratic State is moving ahead step by step in accordance with road map.

Mr. President,

However, sadly there are few people who want to disrupt the implementation of road map as well as the successful completion of the National Convention. They are also trying to tarnish the image of Myanmar Government in various ways.

Recently, Myanmar Government has increased the prices of petrol, diesel and natural gas starting from 15 August 2007. The Government has to increase the prices inevitably as there is a huge economic impact of the international fuel prices on the Nation. However, the fuel prices of our country is still cheaper than that of some countries in Asia despite the increase.

Mr. President,

The amount of consumption of petroleum and its products in Myanmar is more than the production in the whole country and therefore the Government has to import its crude oil needs at a high price since a long time ago. In fact, Myanmar Government subsidizes fuel for its people. However, annual consumption is being increased and the Government has been trying to boost local production of fuel to accommodate the increase demands. In this regard, the Government made all its efforts including conducting joint venture oil exploration in cooperation with foreign oil companies.

As I mentioned earlier, a group of people who want to take advantage of this situation to exploit politically, initiated the protest in Yangon and persuaded the people to join the protest that would lead to civil and political unrest in the whole country. They had through protests attempted to attract the attention of the international community with a view to putting political pressure on the Government. However, people of Myanmar understood the reason for increasing fuel prices and did not participate in their initiatives as much as they expected.

Mr. President,

Let me reiterate that as Myanmar Government is striving to achieve its goals to build a new modern and developed Nation, the stability of State, peace and tranquillity of the people and prevalence of law and order are indispensable for us. Moreover, Myanmar had experienced civil unrest in 1988. The Government therefore, has to take appropriate actions and necessary measures to prevent anarchism in the country.

Myanmar Government has always taken into account its people's interests. Successful drafting of the State Constitution followed by a referendum is our national priority. Now the National Convention has shown the strength of unity by bringing together national races, political parties, representatives-elect and delegates from all walks of life and other invited guests.

Mr. President,

Myanmar spares no efforts to cooperate with Special Rapporteurs as far as possible. Myanmar is cooperating not only with human rights bodies but also with other international organizations.

To conclude, Mr. President, despite the challenges it now faces, Myanmar will continue its plan to achieve and complete its democratic process in accordance with the seven-step road map.

Thank you.