



MYANMAR

General Statement by His Excellency U Kyaw Tint Swe, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, on Draft Resolution A/C.3/60/L. 53 under Agenda Item 71(c) entitled: "Human Rights Situations and Reports of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives" in the Third Committee of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(18 November 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for giving me the floor to make a general statement regarding draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53 entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar".

Mr. Chairman,

- EU has over the years put forward country- specific resolutions on Myanmar, with a clear intention of micromanaging in Myanmar's domestic political process under the pretext of human rights.
- The resolutions have year after year become more intrusive and prescriptive. It is particularly true of this year's draft resolution.
- The thrust of the draft resolution has also drastically shifted from its focus on human rights to the domestic political process of Myanmar. The resolution, despite several rounds of consultations between the co-sponsors and my delegation remains biased and politically intrusive. It thus demonstrates vividly its true intention of manipulating Myanmar's homegrown political process. The draft resolution also intrudes upon areas that are solely within the domestic domain of a sovereign Member State of the United Nations.
- Myanmar, through its national reconciliation process, has been able to reconsolidate national unity and, out of the 18 insurgent groups, 17 groups have come back to the legal fold and joined the National Convention, the first crucial step of our 7-step road-map for a smooth transition to democracy. The National Convention is an all-inclusive process made up, among others, of representatives of the political parties and our ethnic nationalities. Out of the 1088 delegates, 633 are from ethnic national groups who are joined by 105 representatives from the 17 former insurgent groups. There have been significant progress in the work of the National Convention which is laying down the principles to be enshrined in a new State constitution. The draft State constitution will be put before a national referendum and, if adopted, there will be elections under the new State constitution.

- The third session of the National Convention will begin on 5 December this year. Myanmar has therefore made significant progress in its 7-step political road-map to ensure a smooth transition to democracy. Turning a blind eye to these positive developments, EU has once again presented a highly politicized and intrusive draft resolution selectively targeting Myanmar.
- This year's draft resolution also contains very harsh language and unfounded allegations. As part of our national reconciliation endeavour, we have also negotiated in good faith with the remaining insurgent organization but our efforts to date have been futile. These insurgents and the remnants of the narco-trafficking armed group have instead waged a disinformation campaign to discredit the government and people of Myanmar. A great majority of allegations in the draft resolution emanated from them and is part of a well-funded campaign of disinformation.
- If the draft resolution is allowed unchallenged, it would not only infringe upon Myanmar's national sovereignty but also create a dangerous precedent that will have far-reaching consequences for the entire membership of the United Nations.
- The Delegation of Myanmar, in previous years, had not pressed for a vote but dissociated itself from the resolutions. However, this year, in view of the intrusive language that clearly infringes on Myanmar's national sovereignty, we see no other recourse but to resist EU's highly intrusive, highly politicized and manipulative draft resolution.
- In this context, it is pertinent to recall here that the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, in their Final Outcome Document of the Eleventh NAM Summit in Cartagena, stress that "human rights should not be used as instruments of political pressure especially against the Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries". They also upheld "the Vienna spirit of international cooperation that should exclude exploitation of the question of human rights for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous motivations". This principled position of our leaders was reaffirmed at the last Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- It is particularly important to hold on to this principle at this juncture when we are going to transform the Human Rights machinery and do away with politicization and double standard.
- In this light, I would like to appeal to all developing countries, in the spirit of NAM, as well as in unity among developing countries, and also as a matter of principle, to stand in solidarity with Myanmar and defeat this overly-politicized EU draft resolution.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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