



MYANMAR

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON THE AGENDA ITEM: 4

NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POPULATION MATTERS: ASSESSMENT OF THE
STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AT THE FOURTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF

THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(New York, 7-11 April 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of this important session of the Commission. My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his reports. This occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action will provide us the opportunity to assess the progress of its implementation and to give useful inputs to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Government of Myanmar recognizes the interrelationship between population, environment and development. It therefore pays a greater attention to population and development issues in its efforts for achieving sustainable development after embarking on the path of political and economic transition. Myanmar is committed to fulfilling the goals embodied in the Cairo Programme of Action as well as the MDGs and has been striving to achieve these goals through its development plans and programmes. This was reflected by the establishment of the National Commission on Population and Development in November 2011.

Myanmar has participated in the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Review. Its findings were endorsed by our National Commission on Population and Development. This survey has brought together government and partners to analyze the achievement of goals of the ICPD PoA, facilitating factors and challenges, and future national priorities.

We are pleased to note that the findings of the ICPD Review revealed that Myanmar has made significant progress in some areas within the ICPD mandate. However, we also recognize the need for increased efforts to address gaps that inhibit the achievement of ICPD and MDG goals. We believe that these gaps can be addressed through enhanced cooperation and assistance from our partners.

For making effective national policies for a country, availability of high quality data is essential. Therefore, Myanmar has just launched nation-wide population and housing census on 29 March 2014 for the first time in 30 years. The result of the census will significantly contribute to the efforts of policy makers for its development planning and building an inclusive and sustainable economy. In this regard, my delegation would like to express our deep appreciation to the United Nations, particularly to the UNFPA for their substantive technical and financial assistance for this important census project.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now apprise the Meeting some of the important steps taken by Myanmar to attain the goals contained in the Cairo Programme of Action in selected vital areas.

With regard to the issue of **Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development**, the Government has attached priorities to poverty eradication with special emphasis on income generation and employment strategies. It has also formulated policies for enhancing agriculture development and obtaining sustainable food security.

In order to promote **gender equality and empowerment of women**, the Government has put in place a National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women NSPAW (2013-2022) in line with CEDAW principles providing an integrated approach to improving the situation of women and girls in Myanmar. Myanmar National Committee on Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, and other partners have paid special attention to combating gender-based violence, and promoting women empowerment and gender equality.

In the area of **Development and Education**, the Government has managed to increase primary school enrolment and Non-formal Education and Extended Continuous Education Learning are also introduced for out-of-school children.

Mr. Chairman,

Increasing access to health and education, and achieving greater human rights for women and young people, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, are critical for sustainable development. Access to education and employment, opportunities for young people and women is also fundamental for holistic development.

The Post-2015 development agenda must therefore emphasize policies to advance gender equality and women's rights and to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Maternal health also occupies a place of priority in Myanmar, Special emphasis is given on serving the unmet needs in birth spacing. The government and its partners will try to improve access to appropriate information, quality services, and enabling environment for family planning.

In Myanmar, reproductive health and gender equity as highlighted at ICPD have been addressed over the years. Its policy of implementation are guided by the National Health Policy, the National Population Policy, and the National Health Plans reflect concepts of ICPD and WHO Global Health Strategy and Five year Strategic Plans for Reproductive Health. This has resulted in visible progress in our efforts for maternal, newborn and child health and birth spacing with a reduction in maternal mortality and increase in contraceptive prevalence rate. For instance, maternal mortality has declined from 360 per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 200 in 2010. Myanmar has also pledged to

the global partnership initiative - the Family Planning 2020 (FP 2020) and demonstrated its firm commitment to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate to 50% by 2015.

A number of national strategic plans on education, reproductive health, child and adolescent health and HIV/AIDS, to name a few, have also been implemented in Myanmar. Efforts are made to develop a strategic plan for advancement of women and a plan of action on ageing population. Myanmar currently has the demographic dividend of having a strong proportion of young and working age population for growth and development. This window of opportunity will have to be captured with strategic provision of sufficient and quality education and employment opportunities for young people.

Mr. Chairman,

While overall progress has been made in vital areas, Myanmar and its development partners still have to do more for full realization of the goals and objectives embodied in the Cairo Plan of Action. We believe that we will be able to overcome the impediments through our continued efforts in cooperation with our development partners to strengthen enforcement of laws, better governance, enhanced coordination in execution of plans and last but not least strengthening of financial and human resource capacity.

In concluding, we are pleased to have taken part in the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 where we joined the adoption of the regional plan of action for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. My delegation regards the review as an undertaking that would further facilitate more effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, not serve as a replacement for the existing PoA, which we reaffirm and support wholeheartedly.

I thank you.