



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Dr. Nyi Nyi, Deputy Director-General, Department of Population,  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population under Agenda Item 3(b): ‘Sustainable cities,  
human mobility and international migration’ at the General Debate of the  
51<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development,  
(New York , 9 - 13 April 2018)**

**Mr. Chair,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this 51<sup>st</sup> Session of Commission on Population and Development. I am confident that your wise and able leadership would lead us to the successful outcome of this session.

I also would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports under this Agenda Item which will certainly enrich our consideration and deliberations of this session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of G77 and China.

**Mr. Chair,**

Myanmar is committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Programme of Action is also critical for achieving sustainable development as it provides a strong platform for population, development and people’s well-being.

Human mobility is one of the defining features of this 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with more people are on the move than ever before in recorded history, both internally and internationally, for various reasons. Cities are considered to be drivers of economic growth. These are also the major gateways and destinations for internal and international migration. Migration into cities presents both opportunities and challenges. Hence, my delegation is of the view that proper policy and regulations on urbanization are vital to achieve sustained economic and social development.

The 2030 Agenda also recognizes that migration and human mobility are integral to inclusive and sustainable development.

Urban infrastructure plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development. As such, we need to provide services such as transport, electricity, safe water and sanitation, health care and education to all city dwellers, while ensuring provision of equal access for women and girls in that regard.

Having a good proportion of youth population offers potential to the country to realize the demographic dividend and achievement of the SDGs. Investment in youth is critical in that we must improve quality and reach of the education for young people, and also develop their skills to be compatible with the realities of the age of technology and labour market demands.

Myanmar attaches great importance to the role youth which makes up over 35 per cent of the total population. The Myanmar Youths Policy was released earlier this year. The policy aims to improve overall youth development which would ultimately elevate various sectors of the country.

Similar to neighbouring countries, Myanmar has experienced significant internal and international migration during different historical periods, particularly in recent decades. According to the 2014 Census, 19.3 per cent of the population were reported to have moved at least once. A large proportion of movements in Myanmar revolved around former capital city, Yangon, which is also social and economic hub of the country.

Addressing the housing gap is a particular challenge in contexts of high mobility and rapid urbanization. Myanmar fully recognizes that providing access to improved housing through enabling conditions and slum upgrading, will contribute to reducing social inequalities and achieving sustainable urbanization and development. Yangon currently has a population of 5.2 million, and the population is expected to grow rapidly in the coming decades. In responding to the growing population, housing and other infrastructure development projects are being implemented as part of the Yangon Master Plan.

**Mr. Chair,**

Mobility can be a way out of poverty. Mobility can be beneficial for migrants and their families, and can also contribute to the nation's economy. Myanmar people have long used migration as a strategy for better employment and better livelihoods. Currently, estimated 4.25 million Myanmar nationals are living abroad with over 70 percent in Thailand. Protection of migrants is one of the national priorities, and the Government is trying to ensure their rights are protected so that they can contribute to the human, social and cultural development of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. In this light, the Government of Myanmar has been conducting National Verification Process for those who do not have any proper documents or undocumented migrants abroad, and issued them Overseas Employment Cards and Temporary passports.

My delegation believes that data on the demographic components of urban growth, including the growth resulting from internal and international migration, is crucial to make informed decisions on rural and urban development planning of the country.

Myanmar successfully conducted a nationwide Population and Housing Census in 2014, with technical and financial support from the United Nations Population Fund and other

development partners. This is the first census in over 30 years. It is very important to the ongoing reforms in our country. Questions relating to migration were included in the Census which would enhance formulation of migration policies. The main results of the Census were released in May 2015 and 14 thematic analysis reports including Census Atlas were also released in December 2017. Census data was disseminated to potential users including government, civil society organizations, women groups, youth groups, academia, private sector and community leaders at different administrative levels. The Government of Myanmar has decided to develop a National electronic Identification System (NeID) which is unique ID system for every single person in Myanmar to establish real-time digital data system for the entire population.

**Mr. Chair,**

Population growth, migration and urbanization patterns are inextricably linked to economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Not only do population dynamics pose challenges, but also bring opportunities for more sustainable development. My delegation reiterates its firm commitment to translate population dynamics into development opportunities, and stands ready to work with the international community to promote capacity building and technical cooperation in data collection and sharing, in order that well-managed urbanization and human mobility contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development.

In closing, **Mr. Chair**, my delegation wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation towards the successful conclusion, and hopes that our deliberations in this session will also contribute to the current negotiations on the Global Compact on Migration.

I thank you.

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