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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. THAN SWE

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

AT

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON HIV/AIDS

10 JUNE 2011, NEW YORK

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Than Swe, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
(New York, 10 June 2011)**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thirty years ago in this month, the world came to realize the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Since then, over 25 million people have perished due to AIDS. Another estimated 33 million people are still living with HIV.

At present, we do have a better understanding on HIV/AIDS than three decades ago. Despite the collected efforts made by all stakeholders, more than 7,000 people are newly infected with HIV virus each and every day.

Weak national infrastructures, financing shortfalls, stigma, discrimination and gender inequality continue to destabilize the efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. We are of the view that the current commitments and accomplishments to sustain the global HIV/ AIDS response are inadequate.

Mr. President,

At this juncture, Myanmar strongly supports the five recommendations made by UN Secretary-General to strengthen the AIDS response. Mobilization of sufficient financial resources and the necessary assistance from UN system and the international community are indispensable to effectively implement the recommendations.

Mr. President,

In Myanmar, an HIV surveillance team was formed in 1985 and the first HIV positive person was found in 1988. From then on, we included HIV/AIDS as one of the major diseases into our national health plan.

Myanmar is now keeping abreast with international community to fight against HIV/AIDS. National AIDS programme is now being coordinated with various stakeholders comprising of 7 UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society. We are implementing HIV/AIDS

prevention and care activities in accordance with "Three Ones Principles". Greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) has been implemented in coordination with UN Agencies, and both National and international NGOs.

Despite the facts that out of 76,000 people needing ART, only 30,000 AIDS patients were received the treatment at the end of 2010. Even with the supporting of Global Fund and 3 Diseases Fund, there is still a widening resource gap especially for ART.

Myanmar has already launched new National Strategic Plan (NSP) for AIDS covering the years 2011 to 2015. Ministry of Health organizes to hold workshops in different states and regions in the country to raise awareness of the targets and priority of HIV intervention. The first in a series of such workshop, namely Multi-Sectoral Dissemination Workshop for NSP supported by UN was successfully held in Myanmar last week.

Mr. President,

With the limited resources and meager international support, Myanmar tried her best to overcome difficulties in fighting against HIV/AIDS. As a result, we have made a remarkable progress in our national AIDS response. HIV prevalence among all key populations has begun to decline. HIV prevalence among adult (15-49) population has reduced from 0.94 % in 2000 to 0.61% in 2009.

According to the 2010 Global AIDS Epidemic Report, Myanmar stands among the 20 high impact countries identified with decreasing HIV prevalence. Myanmar remains committed to intensify joint actions to achieve better results in prevention and treatment which will lead to significant contribution to dramatically reshape the AIDS response to reach zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Mr. President,

We are highly inspired by the new global Vision on HIV "Getting to Zero" and Myanmar will continue to work together with a strenuous and collaborative manner in resolving to fight against the pandemic.

I thank you, Mr. President.