

**Statement by**

**Mr. Aung Kyaw Zan, Minister Counsellor, the Permanent Mission of the Republic  
of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations**

**Item 25: Operational activities for development of the Second Committee**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset my delegation wishes to express our sincere appreciations to the Secretary-General for his reports on this agenda item. My delegation associates itself with the statements which were made earlier by the distinguished representatives of Algeria and Vietnam who spoke on behalf of G-77 and China and ASEAN respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Development cooperation is one of the main pillars of work of the United Nations and plays an instrumental role in the efforts by the international community to maintain peace, security and promote human rights. We commend the United Nations' development system for its support for the national development process around the world for the over past five decades. The United Nations operational activities have immensely contributed to the efforts of many developing countries in many fields including poverty reduction, improvement of livelihood, health and education of the people and achieving Millennium Development Goals.

We are also appreciative of the on-going efforts made by the Secretary General and staff of the UN development system and the member states for enhancing coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations operational activities for development and making preparations for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process.

Nowadays, development cooperation and operational activities have been expanding to bring about substantial and significant results to the socio-economic development process in many countries. In this connection, Myanmar attaches great importance to the role of the UN development system and acknowledges the

operational activities and the comparative advantages of the different UN funds, programs and specialized agencies. Guiding principles of the UN development work should always be the national ownership of the development process. We therefore hardly need to stress here that operational activities should be carried out for the benefits of individual programme countries, at the request of the recipient countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar shares the view that improving the resource situation of the UN development system is currently at the center of concerns of the developing countries. Without adequate financial support, little can be done to promote development, let alone improving the efficiency and accountability of the UN development system. The availability of adequate, stable and predictable core resources is both the foundation of UN operational activities for development and a fundamental requirement for the reinforcement of the global partnership for development. In light of serious decline in resources for development activities, Myanmar aligns itself with ASEAN in urging the donor countries to honour their commitment of financial assistance for UN operational activities, in order to narrow the enormous imbalance between core and non-core resources. Furthermore, to ensure stable and predictable funding, development partners could consider multi-year financing frameworks or other appropriate modalities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

For over the past two decades, Myanmar, despite being listed as an LDC, had been deprived of the UNDP normal country programme and had not fully benefited from the United Nations' operational activities for development. According to the World Bank data, Myanmar, with a population of about 58 million, receive only US\$ 7 per capita in ODA in 2010, compared with US\$ 34 for Vietnam, US\$ 52 for Cambodia and US\$ 67 for Laos PDR. Myanmar therefore is a country that deserves substantial increase in assistance of the United Nations operational activities to compensate her lost decades. At this particular time of democratic transformation, Myanmar is in urgent need of

international assistance in human resource development and capacity building of the public institutions to effectively implement its complicated reform measures.

The positive developments brought about by the on-going political and economic reforms in Myanmar over the past year have drawn widespread support and encouragement from international community and the United Nations system, resulting in change of policies in the donor countries towards Myanmar and lifting or easing of restrictions against the country. It has now paved the way for the United Nations Development system and international financial institutions to resume their financial assistance for Myanmar's development efforts. We are hopeful that the United Nations would exert more efforts to provide assistance in various fields to assist Myanmar Government's political and economic reform measures to improve socio-economic life of its people in full consultation with the Government and its development partners.

We also welcome the decision of the Executive Board of UNDP on 28 June at its annual session 2012 to resume the normal country programme for Myanmar for the period 2013-15. We wish to express our sincere appreciations to UN system and the member States for their valuable support for resumption of the country programme. We also look forward to receiving financial and technical assistance from the United Nations system, particularly for the national census to be conducted in 2014 as well as for our fight against illegal narcotic drugs. Myanmar is committed to work more closely with the United Nations to implementing the Programme that, we believe, will be definitely aligned with her national priorities, focusing on poverty reduction and rural development while promoting inclusive development, disaster risk management and good governance which are critical for her efforts towards achieving the MDGs. In addition, Myanmar also looks forward to welcoming the total lifting of remaining restrictions impeding trade and investments as well as flows of international aids in the near future to accelerate the momentum of the ongoing reform measures benefiting its people.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In concluding, Myanmar wishes to stress the need for the work of the UN system for development should be effectively guided by the national development needs and

priorities of the recipient countries. At the same time, we also believe that the further strengthening of the main UN coordination processes namely the resident coordinator system, the UN Development Assistance Framework and common administrative services at the country level will enhance the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations operational activities in bringing about real improvements in the lives of the people the world over.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.