



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations at the General Discussion of
the Fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on Population and Development
(New York, 2 May 2024)**

Madam Chair,

I wish to begin by thanking you and the Bureau for your hard work during the negotiation and the current session of the Commission.

As we mark the thirtieth anniversary of the ICPD, Myanmar welcomes the timely priority theme to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA). In this regard, I wish to congratulate those Member states that have made measurable progress on certain areas of the PoA.

Taking this opportunity, I thank the Executive Director of UNFPA and her team for their hard work and necessary support to the member states.

While appreciating the progress on implementation PoA in many member states, we must remain cognizant of the uneven progress of countries in special situations, low-income countries and countries undergoing conflict, and take appropriate actions for the further implementation of the PoA.

Madam Chair,

The principles of the ICPD PoA reaffirm that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, and everyone has the right to life, liberty, security of person as well as the right to development. Ensuring the rights of individuals is the foundation to people-centered development, improving the quality of life for all and future generations. Against this

backdrop, I echoed the DSG’s statement on upholding the dignity of all people and supporting rights-based approaches in our population and development policies.

Population and development are intrinsically linked and progress in any of the two areas can catalyze improvements in the other.

Unfortunately, in my country, Myanmar, both aspects of the ICPD PoA have been deteriorating since the attempted military coup in 2021. In the interest of time, allow me to focus on the following Chapters of the PoA.

“Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty” (Chapter III, Section B): UNDP reported that in 2023, nearly half of the population was living below the national poverty line of 1590 Kyats a day. It is according to today’s market exchange rate an equivalence of US dollar 0.40. An additional 25 percent of the population were hanging by a thread, just above the poverty line, indicating a disappearing middle class.

“Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women” (Chapter IV): the illegal military coup has exacerbated gender-based discrimination, violence and human rights violations perpetrated against women and girls. The military and its affiliates have used physical and sexual violence against women, both online and offline, to suppress those defending human rights and participating in the resistance movement.

“Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health”(Chapter VII): in addition to its disproportionate attacks and atrocities against the civilians, the military junta’s targeted attacks on clinics, hospitals and the subsequent collapse of the health system have made it harder for women and girls to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, particularly for those in IDP camps and conflict-affected areas. We thank the UNFPA for facilitating access to SRH for Myanmar women in these challenging times.

“International Migration”(Chapter X): the military’s indiscriminate attacks against the population has caused the spillover effect of mass migration to our neighboring countries. In addition, the military’s unlawful forced conscription has pushed some young people into hiding or fleeing from the country. Nearly 30 percent of our population are children and

youth. Now they are losing their prospects to fulfill their potential because of the military's disregard for their future. As youth are leaders of our future, we have to work together to bring hope for our young people.

“Population, Development and Education”(Chapter XI):the military junta has essentially deprived children of their rights to education. Some children in Myanmar are learning in bunkers and make-shift camps due to the military's escalated aerial attacks and shelling of schools and learning centers. Education is the key for the development of a nation.

Under this challenging circumstance, the National Unity Government (NUG) is taking an inclusive, collaborative approach with EROs and all relevant stakeholders to provide basic health care, education and humanitarian services to people across Myanmar, regardless of their location, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind. Despite many challenges, the NUG has resumed routine immunizations in some areas, provided disaster management training as well as lifesaving aids and trauma care after Cyclone Mocha.

Madam Chair,

Before concluding, I wish to share with you and distinguished delegates appeal and commitment made by some young people from Myanmar. Recently I received recorded video clips of personal appeal of young people including middle school students. In her statement, the 8 grade student said that she was worried to be forcefully recruited by the military junta under the junta's forced conscription even though she is under 18 years old. Then, she fled to a liberated area. She stated that she will participate whatever role that she can in the revolution against the military junta.

There are so many young people like her in our country, Myanmar.

I salute them for their courage and commitment.

However, they are very young and they should be in classes like young people in other countries.

As such, I wish to appeal to you all and the international community to protect these young people and their future by strongly and effectively supporting the National Unity Government and the ethnic resistance forces in their efforts for ending the military dictatorship and building a federal democratic union.

Myanmar reiterates its commitment to fully realize the ICPD Agenda.

I thank you.
