



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Mr. Tin Maung Naing,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of  
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to United Nations  
at the 3rd Formal Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Committee of  
the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
(New York, 12 October 2020)**

**Ref: Agenda Item-142: Programme Planning  
Agenda Item-141: Proposed Programme Budget for 2021**

**Mr. Chair,**

I wish to thank His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations for introducing the proposed programme budget for 2021. I also wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the introduction of the Committee's report. I also thank Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for her efforts during the Committee's session.

**Mr. Chair,**

I take the floor to respond to the proposed programme plan and budget for the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar under Programme-6 and Section-8: Legal Affairs of the Proposed Programme Budget for 2021 contained in the document A/75/6 (Sect.8).

We are mindful of the scope and responsibilities of the Fifth Committee and I do not intend to raise a debate on human rights issues here. However, I wish to reiterate our position on the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. Myanmar will not cooperate with the mechanism due to the following reasons:

First, the mandate of the Mechanism is very much questionable. It is the first ever mechanism created by the Human Rights Council with the mandate to prepare individual

case files for criminal proceedings. The Human Rights Council has no authority to establish such a mandate as it is not a prosecutorial body. That mandate blatantly violates sovereignty of a Member State. This legitimate concern was also raised in the Committee for Programme and Coordination as reflected in its report.

We wish to reaffirm here again that our rejection to the Mechanism does NOT imply in any way that Myanmar is opposed to accountability of any wrong-doings and serious crimes. However, we cannot accept the creation of a mechanism which is the result of an unwarranted attempt under the pretext of accountability to turn the Human Rights Council into a quasi-judicial body.

Second, the Mechanism spends millions of dollars from the Regular Budget every year. It is now proposed that it would require over USD 12.5 million and 56 staff for 2021. Last year, over 14 million US Dollar were appropriated and 58 staff were approved for the IIMM for 2020. In comparison, these resources and staffing were almost the same as the amount appropriated under the assessed contributions for the whole programme of disarmament. Furthermore, we also have other multiple mandate holders on Myanmar including the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General which has established an office in Nay Pyi Taw. One thing in common is that they all are 100 per cent funded from the assessed contributions. Although there are assertions made on the complementarity of these mechanisms, it is absolutely obvious that they are redundant with overlapping and duplicate responsibilities. That is unacceptable especially in a time when the United Nations is facing dire liquidity crisis.

Third, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 would definitely be one of the most challenging years for the United Nations and its member states. Many countries especially developing ones would need assistance and cooperation of the United Nations more than ever before for their rapid socio-economic recovery from the devastation caused by the pandemic. On the other hand, increasing delays in many member states' payment of UN assessed contributions is foreseeable, as reflected in the Secretary-General's letter dated 31 August 2020. Therefore, our focus for 2021 Programme Budget should be ensuring sufficient resources for programmes that assist national governments in their efforts to recover fast and better, instead of approving disproportionate resources for politicized, non-transparent mechanisms like IIMM targeted against a single member country.

**Mr. Chair,**

One of the main responsibilities of the Fifth Committee is to ensure sufficient resources for the most effective and efficient delivery of mandates. And prudent

assessment on whether our allocated scarce resources have made a positive contribution on the ground is also the responsibility of this Committee. We will continue to work with all member states, and will support the Committee's efforts that will enable the smooth functioning of the United Nations in this challenging time.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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