Statement

by

Ms. Yin Po Myat

Alternate Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On Agenda Item 24: Operational Activities for Development

Before the Second Committee of the
68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 14 October, 2013)
Statement on Agenda Item 24: Operational activities for development

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 made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G-77 and China, and the distinguished representative of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation attaches great importance to the development cooperation and operational activities of the United Nations system, as it plays a significant role in assisting the national endeavors for socio-economic development in developing countries. We are also appreciative of the UNDP’s wide-ranging development projects in our region, focusing on poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Availability of sustainable and predictable funding is essential for effective planning and implementation of the operational activities for development. We would therefore like to voice our support to many other developing countries and the ECOSOC in urging the donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to maintain and substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations development system.

My delegation believes that the United Nations system should be more coherent, effective and efficient in carrying out its operational activities for development successfully. Therefore, we welcome the resolution adopted by ECOSOC last July, calling for the United Nations funds and programmes to fully align their strategic plans with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), taking into account their respective mandates.

We share the view that the Delivering as One (DAO) approach could bring a number of benefits including cost effectiveness, better coordination, avoidance of overlapping and more importantly enhancement of ownership of the recipient Governments. Therefore, we are confident that a more harmonized United Nations approach should include the principles and elements of the Delivering as One approach in conformity with national policies and priorities and also in line with the QCPR.
My delegation believes in the benefits and capability of South-South and triangular cooperation. We, therefore, welcome the establishment of the UN Office for South-South cooperation and its important role in contributing to our development efforts. Myanmar hopes that it would also benefit from the South-South and triangular cooperation of the United Nations especially in the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices of economic development efforts from countries in Asia and other regions.

Mr. Chairman,

The recent changes and wide-ranging economic reforms in Myanmar have drawn widespread international support and growing interest from the United Nations system and donor community to assist Myanmar. We welcome the signing of an agreement on the resumption of the UNDP normal country programme (2013-2015) last April for the first time in two decades. We are pleased to note that implementation of the country programme has already commenced, ending the grassroots level programmes implemented between 1993 and 2012. As Regular Country Programme resumes, we hope that the UN Country team will enhance its cooperation and coordination with the Government in its implementation.

The UN agencies have a critical role to play in enhancing coherence and mobilizing of funding from donor community in supporting key national strategic priority areas. In this connection, we would like to express our appreciation to the UNFPA for its financial and technical assistance as well as for mobilization of required funding for the forthcoming 2014 census. The nation-wide census will provide necessary facts and data essential for formulation of future development plans and policies for the country.

This year, Myanmar government has had the opportunity to welcome the visit of a UN joint team comprising Executive Boards members from six UN agencies. During the visit, the Joint UN team had got the first hand information of the engagements of the UN organizations in Myanmar. Following the visit, the UNCT has emphasized the urgent need for repositioning of the United Nations system in Myanmar in order to fully align with the priorities of the government. We hope that the proposed repositioning would also be made in line with QCPR after full consultation with the Government.

In concluding, we look forward to strengthening cooperation and coordination with the UN system in our national endeavour with a view to accelerating the momentum of the ongoing reform process at this critical time of transition.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.