Statement

by

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On the Agenda Item 23: Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues

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

( New York, 17 October 2013)
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset my delegation wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Secretary-General for the reports on this agenda item. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Fiji, and Singapore on behalf of G-77 and China and ASEAN respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. The international community’s coordinated efforts guided by the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty have contributed significantly to the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We are encouraged to learn that the MDG target on the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been met at the global level, even five years ahead of the target date. Yet, 1.2 billion people are still grappling with extreme poverty. Inequality still exists and opportunity still remains limited for many people living under extreme poverty. Therefore, we need to redouble our efforts to fight against poverty with added momentum. The national development efforts targeted at poverty eradication must be supported by a favourable international environment.

We believe that the eradication of poverty must remain at the core of the future development agenda beyond 2015 despite the expiration of MDGs in 2015. Therefore, we welcome recommendation of the Secretary General that a post-2015 development agenda would centre on the eradication of extreme poverty, the creation of employment opportunities, the promotion of social justice grounded in the voice of the people, and the promotion of equitable, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Chairman,

The three key challenges identified in the secretary general’s report, namely high unemployment, widening inequality and climate change deserve our careful consideration. We fully support the view that employment and decent work are key drivers of poverty reduction. We also agree that there is indeed a growing income inequality in the majority of countries over the last three decades. Environmental threats and climate change have serious effect on poverty reduction. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change, degradation of ecosystems and disasters since they are increasingly constraining livelihoods of the poor people.
Mr. Chairman,

Rural development and poverty alleviation are high on the priority agenda of the Government of Myanmar. We have targeted to reduce extreme poverty from the current 26 per cent to 16 per cent by 2015 in line with the MDGs. The government has adopted eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation namely; development of agriculture productivity, development of livestock breeding and fisheries, development of small-scale rural productivity, development of microfinance institutions, development of cooperative tasks, development of rural socio-economy, development of rural energy and environmental conservation.

Unequal access to basic social services makes the poor people even harder to break out of the cycle of poverty. Narrowing development gap and equitable development among States and Regions is essential for fostering national unity for a multi-ethnic nation like Myanmar. Therefore, we have chosen the policy of “equitable development” as it will contribute to creation of equal economic and social opportunities for all the populations across the country, fostering balanced and equitable growth.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, my delegation wishes to reiterate the importance of addressing poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. We also wish to call upon the United Nations system to strengthen system-wide policy coherence on poverty and employment issues within the framework of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. Last but not least, special attention must be paid to structural roots of poverty in the international system hindering the efforts of the developing countries in their fight against poverty.

I thank you.