STATEMENT

BY

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OF

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE

AT THE 68TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 65 (a, b):

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

(NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2013)
Statement by Mr. Kyaw Thu Nyein,  
Advisor to Myanmar Delegation, at the Third Committee  
under Agenda Item 65: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children  
(18 October 2013)

Mr. Chairman,  
My Delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Special Rapporteur for their respective comprehensive reports under this agenda items. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,  
As rightly mentioned by the preceding delegations, the Convention on the Rights of the Child - CRC and its optional protocols serve as the important international instruments for promoting and protecting the rights of the children. We are pleased to note that over 190 countries have ratified the Convention and over 150 countries have already become the parties to its two protocols. It is indeed a clear demonstration of their political will to protect and promote of the rights of the children. With this same spirit and commitment, my own country, Myanmar, also became a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991 and the Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in 2012.

Mr. Chairman,  
In fulfillment of its responsibilities prescribed in the Convention, Myanmar submitted its third and fourth periodic reports to the Committee on Rights of the Child in January last year. The line Ministries concerned in Myanmar are taking necessary steps to do their best to implement the recommendations made by the Committee with a view to fulfilling the rights of children in various sectors.

Mr. Chairman,  
May I now touch upon the measures being undertaken in Myanmar with an aim to promote all-round developments of the children, who are traditionally treasured as jewels of the family and the future of our society.  
To promote access to education for all children, free and compulsory primary education has been introduced since the beginning of 2011-2012 academic year. This newly initiated programme will ensure that all primary school students are provided textbooks free of charge. Thanks to this initiative, over 5 million primary school students have been provided with necessary text books and exercise books in the following academic year of 2012-2013.

Moreover, education services have been recently allowed to be operated by the private sector with an aim to contributing in education sector at the same standard of education system being provided by the Government. Accordingly, the private school education law, rules and regulations have already been developed and enacted for that purpose.
In order to promote the national education standard to meet the international level, comprehensive education sector review (2012-2014) has been conducted since October 2012 with a view to bringing about systematic development of education sector.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to inform that human rights education has been introduced in the school curriculum of education since the academic year of 2004-2005. The objectives of the initiative are for all the students to understand the knowledge of human rights at every level of age, to understand the civic responsibilities in the human society and to practice those responsibilities properly. The education system of Myanmar is based on the co-education system which gives chances to all boys and girls to have equal rights to pursue any education since childhood up to the professional level. The number of girl students are growing year by year and the ratio of girls to boys are even higher and steadily going upward. The government's education policy "Education for All" takes up greater area for girl students with a wider scope for promotion of educational standard of girl students.

Mr. Chairman,

To provide better health care for the children, the Government has been implementing a National Plan of Action for Children (2006-2015) with a national strategy which focuses on health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child development, and child protection. The National Child Health Strategic Plan (2010-2014) and the National Strategic Plan for Adolescent Health are also under implementation for the utmost benefits of the children.

As part of its efforts for universal immunization, the Ministry of Health, is implementing National Immunization Programme in cooperation with Japan Committee for Vaccines (JVC) and UNICEF. It has significantly contributed to the declination of child mortality rates. In line with the MDGs for reduction of mortality of under-five children, the Government has just launched nationwide vaccination programme over a week ago.

Mr. Chairman,

On the issue of children and armed conflict, a significant progress has been made in Myanmar's commitments and action over the past years. The signing of the Plan of Action between the Government of Myanmar and the UN Country Team in June 2012 is a historic development, demonstrating the Government's strong commitment to end the recruitment and use of under-age children by its armed forces. Since the signing of the Plan of Action, there has been no more cases of new recruitments of under-aged into the military, as systematic screenings are being made at the recruitment centers. The Government has been able to prevent 538 under-aged applicants from slipping into the military service at the screening stage in 2012 alone.

The implementation of the Action Plan has been gaining momentum with the intensive awareness campaign at various levels in the Armed Forces to promote understanding about the
action plan and the laws and regulations prohibiting underage recruitment. More importantly, it is implementing stringent scrutiny not only at recruitment and training stage but also in the post-training period. Since the commencement of the Plan of Action, 176 children had already discharged from the military and integrated to their families.

We have renewed its invitation to the Chairperson of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and her team to visit the country at the end of next month. This is yet another demonstration of our commitment to cooperate with the United Nations to promote and protect the rights of children.

My delegation welcomes the SRSG's global campaign to end recruitment and use of children by government security forces by 2016. Myanmar is doing its best to fully implement the Action Plan to get its armed forces de-listed much earlier than the target year. To that end, Myanmar stands ready to continue its closer cooperation with the Special Representative's Office of the Children and Armed Conflict.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.