



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
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Statement delivered by

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*Esteemed Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for giving me the opportunity to address this august 27 General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), in my capacity as the Leader of the Special Observer Delegation of Myanmar.

May I also convey my best wishes to you, Mr. President and to all the distinguished delegates attending the General Assembly for your personal well being and peace of mind.

I am deeply heartened by the cordial welcome and warm hospitality accorded to the ASEAN Parliamentary delegations, including our delegation, by the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

I am sure that the atmosphere of friendly relationship existing among the delegates would contribute to the success of the General Assembly.

Mr President,

Myanmar is a member country of ASEAN. We truly believe that the interest of one member country is also that of other member countries as well as of the Association. Therefore, it is necessary for the ASEAN member countries to be constantly engaged with one another to enable to build our countries hand in hand in order to keep abreast with the developments of other countries. Bearing this in mind, Myanmar has been actively cooperating with other countries in the ASEAN Region in the economic and social areas. She is also actively cooperating on prevention of human trafficking and combatting terrorism.

For the total elimination of narcotic drugs which has been a menace to humankind, Myanmar has been cooperating with neighbouring countries as well as with other foreign countries and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. And today, we have been witnessing the decrease of poppy growing areas in Myanmar year by year as well as success in the growing of substitute crops and farming for the total elimination of poppy cultivation in Myanmar . We have already set the target date and have taken necessary measures resulting in making the declaration that poppy growing is totally eradicated from

some areas. With regard to the regional cooperation we have been cooperating with the countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region as well as with the member countries of the BIMSTEC.

The achievements of ASEAN is not only due to the individual and collective efforts of the member countries, but also for its ways of achieving things, such as consensus building, positive thinking, avoiding interference in the internal affairs of other countries in the ASEAN Region, etc. Thus, ASEAN countries must abide by their own principle and be steadfast in making their own efforts.

ASEAN is now in the process of intense integration towards establishing the ASEAN community by the year 2020. It is making all out efforts to realize this by building three important pillars, ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. In building these communities, ASEAN vision 2020 must be set as a guide and the Vientiane Action Program as one's strategy.

In the ASEAN community, the basic significant step is the emergence of the ASEAN Charter. It is hoped that the ASEAN Charter would be successfully adopted as early as possible.

Mr President,

We have been striving hard in all sectors for the emergence of an all round developed, disciplined democratic State. However, when we study countries that practice the democratic system, it will be noted that the situation of one country cannot be the same with the other.

Having learnt the lessons experienced in some countries in their transition from the old political system to the new one, the Government of Myanmar in order to have a smooth transition has initiated the (7) Step Road Map in the year 2003 and is systematically implementing the measures step by step. Among these steps, we are now in the stage of reconvening the National Convention which is the most essential step for the emergence of a disciplined democratic state. The National Convention is attended, from the entire country, by delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of national races armed groups who exchanged arms for peace and other suitable invited persons, delegates from various stratas including intellectuals and intelligentsia totalling 1088. Three sessions of the National Convention have now been held and arrangements are being made to hold a National Convention this year.

Mr President,

In building a disciplined democratic state a new draft constitution would be drafted based on the basic principles laid down at the National Convention which is the first step of the (7) step Road Map. A referendum will be held for the adoption of the draft constitution after which there will be a free and fair election to be held in accordance with the new constitution. Then a new government will be formed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Legislative Assembly) in accord with the new constitution. At present we are striving to achieve all necessary conditions, including the attainment of national unity which will contribute to having firm foundation in place when the government which will emerge upon the completion of the step by step implementation of the (7) step Road Map, takes over the responsibilities of the state.

Mr. President,

At present, the government, although encountered with interferences and difficulties has adopted correct attitude and good will fostered to preserve peace and stability of the state, and laid down systematically

implemented plans for the development in the economic, social, educational, health and transportation sectors which are essential for the emergence of a modern and developed nation that can keep abreast with the international community. As a result of these endeavours, we have now achieved success in all the sectors including economy, health, education, agriculture and transportation.

With regard to the exploitation of natural resources for the economic development of the country, we have discovered and exploited oil and natural gas. Also in the Agricultural sector, we have been able to increase the cultivation of agricultural product by increasing the utilization of water for agricultural development with the aid of various irrigation projects such as construction of dams, reservoirs, weirs and river water pumping stations and also by systematically cultivating all available lands as well as by reclaiming virgin lands.

In order to provide sufficient electricity supply, power supply to the people and the Industrial Zones, we have constructed hydroelectric power stations as well as electric power generators run by coal and also implementing large hydroelectric power projects. As a result, the people are also enjoying the fruits of development.

In order to improve the standard of education of the people Universities, Colleges, Technology Universities, Medical Universities, Computer Universities and Institutes at the Basic Education level have been established in all States and Divisions and produced scholars and technicians for the human resources development. For the improvement of the public health, hospitals, clinics, dispensaries have been established in all states and divisions, including in the village level and fulfilled the medical needs of the people.

Only when there is a good network of transportation, people will be able to travel easily and goods can be transported smoothly. The government, therefore has constructed highways, railways, major bridges and airfields through out the country.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates,

It is heartening to note that the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization since its inception 28 years ago has been able to establish cooperation and cultivate friendship among the countries in the region.

I would like to conclude by saying that Myanmar is determined to actively participate in the activities of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization and to actively cooperate with other ASEAN member countries for the peace, stability and development of the Asia region, including the ASEAN member countries.

Thank you.