



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

His Excellency U Nyan Win

Minister for Foreign Affairs

and

Chairman of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar

at the High-Level Plenary Meeting

of

the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

16 September 2005

New York

Mr. President,

May I first of all congratulate you on your election to this high office to preside over this largest ever assembly of world leaders, determined to come together again, in this crucial time, to reassess and reaffirm commitments to promote peace, security, social progress and betterment of life in larger freedom by collectively meeting the threats and challenges of the 21st century. I am confident that your vast experience, keen insight and able guidance will lead to fruitful deliberations of this august body.

Mr. President,

The 21st century is a century of breathtaking opportunities as well as a century of new threats and challenges for all of us. On one hand, we are presented with opportunities brought about by rapid and innovative developments in scientific, industrial, information and communication technologies that will

development throughout the country. In the area of education for all, net enrollment in primary education was 84.5 per cent in 2005 with 74.5 per cent being able to complete its full course. According to our estimation, by 2015 net enrollment will reach 99 per cent. In the health sector, Myanmar is now free from diseases such as small pox, leprosy and polio. We have designated HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis as diseases of national concern. We are also actively participating in the international community's efforts to combat this scourge through its membership in the UNAIDS Programme Coordination Board.

It is, however, regrettable that with regard to my own country even in addressing the global challenge of HIV/AIDS there has been politicization.

Myanmar is endeavouring to achieve development mainly relying on its own resources without assistance particularly from international financial institutions. With external financial assistance our development efforts can be accelerated.

Mr. President,

If the World is to achieve economic development and social progress in a secured environment then consolidated international efforts are urgently needed to solve the global economic issues through implementation of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration, both by developed and developing countries.

The United Nations, being the only Organization with a global reach and global mandate, is the best entity to assist member countries in these critical tasks. Therefore, the United Nations must be reformed to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and to strengthen capacity to meet and overcome the threats and challenges of the 21st century.

Mr. President,

While the United Nations must be reformed, its sacrosanct principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, non-interference in internal affairs, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and non-use of force or threat of use of force should remain inviolate. These are the guiding principles that have withstood the test of time and are as relevant and valid today as on the day they were adopted.

We are confident that this august assembly would reaffirm the cardinal principles that uphold and consolidate the United Nations as the world body for all nations based on equality, solidarity, tolerance, cooperation and multilateralism.

Thank you.