

## **Human Trafficking, Combating Money Laundering, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Political Prisoners**

**Mr. President,**

1. I am Sit Aye, Presidential Senior Legal Advisor from the Office of the President.

### **Human trafficking**

2. It was said by the former UNSG Kofi Annan that Trafficking in Person is one of the worst forms of violation of Human Rights. Our women, children and men are being trafficked to regional countries [such as China, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia] due to the disparity of economic development and in search of greener pasture. Some were trafficked as brides. Some were smuggled and trafficked for better employment opportunities. In addressing this issue, Myanmar is working closely with its neighbours and partners in bilateral, sub regional and regional cooperation.

3. Myanmar adopted the comprehensive first 5 years plan (2007-2011) and extended to second 5 years plan (2012-2016).

4. Myanmar is a member of UNCTOC and its TIP Protocol, GMS COMMITT Ministerial MoU, ASEAN Convention of trafficking in Persons and Bali Process. Bilateral cooperation are implemented with Thailand, China, Malaysia and Indonesia. Myanmar hosted the ASEAN-US workshop on US TIP Report initiated by Mr. Luis Cde Bacca, Ambassador at large of US State Department, in 2014 and cooperation with UNO, INGO and CSO. From January to September 2015, 201 offenders were <sup>used and</sup> prosecuted under TIP Law.

### **Combating Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism**

5. Myanmar is actively engaged in the area of Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism hands in hands with Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and Financial Action Task Force (FATF). We adopted the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Counter Terrorism Law in 2014 and issued Rules in 2015. High Level Delegation led by Attorney General of the Union Dr. Tun Shin attended the FATF plenary meeting in Paris last month demonstrating our commitment. Myanmar FIU signed MoU with its counterpart 8 FIUs in the region.

### **Myanmar National Human Rights Commission**

6. The new Myanmar Government created an Independent National Human Rights Commission in September 2011. Later on 28 March 2014, the Myanmar National Human

Rights Commission Law was adopted by the Union Parliament to bring it in line with the Paris Principles and in practice. The Commission is functioning free and independently calling for the complaints of the people whose human rights are deemed violated.

7. After independent investigation, the Commission informs the authorities concerned through the Cabinet so as to ensure follow-up actions and remedies. Commission reports are issued and publicized in the newspapers on issues critical to the public. The Commission's mission includes advocacy on human rights throughout the country.

8. Cooperation with UN and regional entities including OHCHR and AICHR is ongoing on its capacity building and advocacy workshop.

**Mr. President,  
Political Prisoners**

9. Since the current Government took the State responsibility, the President issued an order to form the Scrutiny Committee to Monitor the Political Prisoners in 2013 with 16 members including 3 from Political Parties.

10. Later, it was expanded to 28 members including 16 from Political Parties and 5 from CSOs in 2015. The committee convened 15 meetings to scrutinize and submit to the President with its recommendation for granting Amnesty and Pardon. Successive Special Rapporteurs of situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Supreme Court Judges made visits to prisoners. Likewise, ICRC has access to prison and help upgrade the water, sanitation and health services for prisoners to meet certain standards there.

11. MNHRC has investigated the complaints on torture of political prisoners and found that they were not true.

**Mr. President,**

12. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the government's commitment to promoting and protecting of Human Rights of our people in harmony with accepted international human rights obligations. Myanmar is changing for better in all sectors and with full transparency. I would like to call on the United Nations and the International Community to engage with Myanmar in a constructive manner.

13. Thank you for your attention.

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