

Statement by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement

(Algiers –29 May 2014)

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates of the Non-Aligned Movement,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First and foremost, on behalf of the Myanmar delegation, I would like to extend our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to our delegation and for the excellent arrangements made for this august assembly. I have no doubt that under your able stewardship the meeting will be of a success.

As a founding member, Myanmar is here today to show our continued support and commitment to the principles of the Movement.

The Movement has come a long way since its inception. In the past the Movement has known times of stress but overcome them in solidarity as members recalled that the Movement was established for good purpose – to help emerging nations survive in the new world order. In the rapidly-changing world of today, based on these founding principles, the Movement has envisioned to “*Enhance Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity*”.

We live in a world where the old certainties are being challenged. Some nations have emerged successfully with new political systems and some are still struggling. Nevertheless, we are facing challenges such as *political strife, economic inequality and social disorder* amidst concerns over runaway population growth.

We need to tackle these impediments through enhanced and solidified actions within the Movement and at the United Nations. Myanmar is encouraged to see that the United Nations, its Charter and the International Law remain indispensable tools central in making the Movement’s decisions. We also need to use the Movement’s existing “*Mechanisms and Arrangements*” to the best effect so that the Movement is capable of responding to impediments affecting the members in a timely and efficient manner. We would like to encourage members to continue to uphold these fundamental principles.

As far as population growth is concerned, we need to create economic opportunities. However, creating economic opportunities alone will not solve the poverty that results from this growth. Poverty does not come from inability to work but from inability to adapt to the changing situation. We have to find an alternative such as providing appropriate education to the under privileged members of the society so that they can take advantage of these new economic opportunities. We need to make effective use of the available resources by working together and by bringing governments and peoples closer to eradicate poverty and build the world that we envisioned.

On Myanmar, we have made significant achievements since the reform efforts started three years ago. In the beginning, Myanmar faced enormous challenges. Due to concerted efforts of every stakeholder in the country we are moving rapidly and successfully forward. Aiding this process has been the consistent support given by our friends from far and near.

The theme “**Enhanced Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity**” that we are discussing today is especially relevant to Myanmar where many ethnic groups have to co-exist. In order to ensure lasting peace in the country, Myanmar government has adopted new approaches and policies on peace-building. It has secured ceasefire agreements with 14 armed ethnic groups. Recently, we have agreed on a single text for a nationwide ceasefire peace agreement which will hopefully lead to permanent peace in every corner of the country in a near future.

Simultaneously, Myanmar government has made all-out efforts to enhance economic development and to raise the living standard of Myanmar people. As a result of all these efforts Myanmar achieved 7.3% GDP growth in 2012-2013.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I am pleased to know that the meeting today and the important documents that we are going to adopt will lay a necessary foundation for boosting the role of the NAM in building a better future. I would like to assure you that Myanmar, with its years of commitment to the Movement, will work hand-in-hand with all members not only to boost the role of the NAM but also to achieve peace and prosperity as we have all envisioned from its foundation.

Thank you.
