



MYANMAR

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STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR U LINN MYAING
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

ON

**ITEM 81: EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION AT THE
SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE**

OF

**THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 14 OCTOBER 2003

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important committee. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to extend my congratulations to the other members of the bureau for their well-deserved elections. I have no doubt of the success that your wisdom and leadership will bring to the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation submitted to the Fifty Eighth Session of the General Assembly. We also commend the work of the Scientific Committee, which has greatly contributed to a better understanding of the effects of radiation and the safe and systematic use and handling of radioactive materials. However, we regret that the Fifty First Regular Session of the Scientific Committee was not able to convene on its originally slated date due to inadequate support funding in the budget for the biennium 2002-2003. We place great importance on the work of the Scientific Committee and sincerely hope that adequate funding will be provided for the convening of the Fifty Second Session in Vienna in April of 2004. We would also like to see greater cooperation and support by the member states of the United Nations and other relevant UN Agencies towards this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has been involved in the peaceful use of Atomic Energy in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency which has been providing technical and budgetary assistance. From 1976 to 2002, a total of US \$7.5 million in assistance was utilised in the areas of medicine, agriculture, human resource development and nuclear technology support, nuclear engineering and technology, and nuclear safety, and, to a lesser degree, in the fields of nuclear physics, industry and hydrology, nuclear chemistry and general atomic energy development.

Furthermore, an allocation of US \$ 1.027 million in total has been recommended for 2003-2004.

Under the Agency projects being carried on in Myanmar, varieties of rice suitable for cultivation in drought prone areas and saline lands are being developed through radiation induced mutations. Isotopic and non-isotopic techniques are being used to evaluate locally available feed resources and to evolve appropriate feed supplementation strategies for cattle used for milk and meat production as well as for drought power. National Centres for Nuclear

Instrumentation Maintenance have been established among other projects as well.

Myanmar deeply appreciates the assistance provided by the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

Apart from successfully implementing national projects not only under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, but also through the use of national funding, the Government of Myanmar is actively participating in regional and interregional projects which include those regarding Legislation for Safe and Peaceful Nuclear Application, National Regulatory Control and Occupational Radiation Protection Programmes, and the Development of Technical Capabilities for Sustainable Radiation and Waste Safety Infrastructure. We intend to continue taking part in such projects and further cooperate with the IAEA for the peaceful use of Atomic Energy in Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

The Atomic Energy Law was enacted in Myanmar in 1998, and its objectives include the development of atomic energy utilisation, the ensuring of safety in the utilisation of atomic energy, the laying down and implementation of measures for prevention of atomic radiation effects on Man and the Environment, and the enabling of communication with local and foreign research institutes and organisations for the development of knowledge and technology related to atomic energy.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the fact that systematic use of nuclear energy in sectors such as industry, agriculture and health can greatly contribute to progress in developing countries. At the same time, we are fully aware of the negative effects of atomic radiation and the risks posed by improper use of nuclear energy. We fully hope that the Scientific Committee will be able to continue with its new programme of work and that information on the latest findings and developments in the field of atomic radiation will be disseminated to member states so that the full potential of nuclear energy can be harnessed without causing harm to the environment as well as humankind.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.