



# MYANMAR

( Check against delivery )

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**ON**

**ITEM 86: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION  
AT THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLINIZATION  
COMMITTEE**

**OF**

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

**NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER 2003**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The delegation also expresses its gratitude to the Secretary General for his report on the questions relating to information as contained in document (A/58/175). It would also like to thank the Department of Public Information for its important work, especially for the part on promoting awareness of United Nations activities. We welcome the major reform of the Department's structure and its operation methods that allows it to better suit the new concept of operations.

Since the Department of Public Information is going to be guided by the priorities laid down by the General Assembly, in particular the United Nations Millennium Declaration and those established by the Secretary General, which include poverty eradication, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS mitigation, and combating terrorism, there is no cause for doubt that success will be achieved.

We would also like to recognize the work done by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to improve its web site and upgrading of its two major internet-based services, the new UNBISNET which allows for easier searching of bibliographic databases in addition to the provision of direct links from the indexed record to the full text of documents, and the launching of the UNBIS Thesaurus in all six official languages.

In the area of public information dissemination, my delegation commends the Department's efforts to promote the use of multi-lingualism which is vital for the establishment of a wider outreach throughout the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Myanmar is endeavouring its utmost for all those residing within the Union to have access to news and information. In terms of traditional means of communication, radio programmes which are broadcast also in the different ethnic languages have been extended and measures are being taken to set up FM relay stations for the benefit of those living in remote border regions. The establishment of 160 television relay stations throughout the country has enabled television access for 87.4% of the population. The recent use of Global Beam Transponders from two satellites is making it possible for TV viewers in 156 countries across Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and the Americas to have the chance of viewing Myanmar TV programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

With the continued rapid advancement of Information and Communications technology Myanmar also faces the challenge of taking advantage of the phenomena. So as not to be left behind, the Government has taken the necessary measures systematically, from establishing the Myanmar Computer Development Council to provide guidance to the fledgling ICT industry, to the setting up of the Myanmar Computer Federation for the development of computer science in the country. With regard to legislation, a Computer Science Development Law has been promulgated and preparations are being made to draft a comprehensive Cyber Law.

Making use of these institutional and legal frameworks, the Government with the participation of the private sector, is spending enormous amounts of funds to develop the necessary ICT infrastructure. Several facilities including ICT parks now provide IT related services to an increasing number of the population.

Mr. Chairman,

An e-education system was introduced in Myanmar 3 years ago with the establishment of a Satellite Data Broadcasting Network. To date, four hundred and fifty five e-learning centers have been opened throughout the country providing learning opportunities to students in both rural and urban areas. The Network is now also used for remote printing of newspapers in cities outside of the capital. In addition, e-libraries have been set up throughout the country by the Ministry of Information. Those living in far flung areas of the country also have the option of e-newspapers now.

In order to broaden the scope of knowledge of the Internet and Information Technology for students and the general public, IT caravans also tour the country to reach out to the people.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar is working with its regional partners in Asia such as Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, the Republic of Korea and India, for the development of ICT and we greatly appreciate the assistance and cooperation provided to us by these countries. The Myanmar e-National Task Force comprising of government officials, IT technicians and entrepreneurs, is also implementing the initiatives of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement, to which Myanmar is also a signatory.

Mr. Chairman,

The digital divide still exists between developed and developing countries. Much still needs to be done in order to bridge this divide and enhanced cooperation among member states of the United Nations can contribute significantly to the attainment of the objective. We believe that the United Nations can play an ever increasing role here.

We hope that the World Summit on Information, the first phase of which is about to be held in Geneva in December this year, and the second in Tunis in 2005, will bring about opportunities to help the developing countries get a jump start to catching up with the more advanced nations so that they too can enjoy the benefits of Information and Communications Technology can offer.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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