



# MYANMAR

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58<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Statement

by

H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Ambassador

Representative of the Union of Myanmar

in the Sixth Committee

on

Item No. 156 : Measures to eliminate international terrorism

New York  
October 17, 2003

Mr. Chairman,

May I first of all congratulate you for your election as Chairman. May I also say how happy I am to see a fellow ASEAN member taking the stewardship of this important Committee. I am confident that your experience and wisdom will guide us successfully through our work. My congratulations also go to other members of the bureau.

I wish also to align myself with the statement to be made by the Representative of Vietnam on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations(ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a global phenomenon that is endangering peace and stability. We need concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels to address this menace. No doubt our collective efforts have further intensified by the events of 9/11. However, terrorist attacks around the world in the past year have clearly shown that the global community still has a long way to go in our fight against terrorism. In the past year, my country Myanmar has seen it's share of terrorism. There has been a number of bombings in Tachleik and Phyu which were perpetrated by separatist armed groups. We are determined to combat terrorism, wherever they occur and by whomever committed.

Mr. Chairman,

I commend the work of the Working Group which is ably chaired by Ambassador Rohan Perera. Their efforts bring us a step closer to a safer world. However, some issues, particularly the issue of the definition of terrorism and the issue of differentiating between terrorism and the right of peoples to self-determination and to combat foreign occupation still eludes us. May I join the appeal of speakers before me to find a reconciliation between divergent positions.

Despite the many international instruments against terrorism, we believe there is a real need for a comprehensive international convention to fight terrorism. Only when such a Convention comes into force can we ensure that a terrorist who has killed innocent lives in one country can no longer walk as a free man in another.

Mr. Chairman,

The Millennium Development Goals call for eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Although terrorism is not born out of poverty and hunger alone, the severe conditions of poverty and deprivation provide fertile breeding ground for terrorists. We should not forget the link between the two. To quote a former UN Secretary-General " explosion of violence could occur as a result of the sense of injustice felt by those living in poverty and despair in a world of plenty". Due to the complexity of the issue, Myanmar believes that it is essential for the international community to come together and address the issue of poverty in our common endeavour to combat terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has acceded to a number of major conventions related to suppression of terrorism. The most recent being the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 December, 1997 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December, 1999. Myanmar is also fighting terrorism in the context of ASEAN. In January this year, ASEAN and the EU issued a Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism at the end of the 14th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar is against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. May I conclude by reiterating Myanmar's firm commitment to combat terrorism hand in hand with the rest of the international community

I thank you Mr. Chairman.