



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Myanmar
on the Item 4: Oral Update of the Secretary General on the Involvement of the
United Nation in Myanmar
at the 43rd Session of Human Rights Council
(Geneva, 9 March 2020)**

Madame President,

- My delegation takes note of the oral update and the brief of Mr. Gert Rosenthal.
- Reports of the UN should be factual, impartial and balanced. In doing so, references from multiple sources should be made including sources from the country concerned.
- On page 9 of the brief, number of police border posts attacked by ARSA is mentioned as 3. In fact, it is 30 police outposts and one military battalion headquarters. This information is widely available on the public domain. The wrong data has adverse impact on the intensity of the terrorist attacks.
- Disappointedly we do not see any publicly available facts from the country concerned were referred in the brief according to its “end notes”.
- As such, it has negative effect on the credibility of the reports.
- We wish that reports of the UN should always be seen as impartial, balanced and objective ones.

Madame President,

- The main role of UN country teams and agencies is to take actions and effective integration, for the development of the member countries, in accordance with the objectives and national priorities of the Governments concerned at their request.

- In this regard, the approach taken in-country should be based on the utmost requirements of the country in consultation with and with the consent of the Government concerned.
- When a host country and the UNCT work together for the implementation of the needs of the country, the UN staff including the RCs, must follow their standard of conducts including inclusiveness, respect and trust, respect for diversity, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability.
- Resident Coordinators are mandated to focus on the development activities of the host country. At the same time, they play an important role in fulfilling the needs of the country as well as strengthening the capacity of the host government.
- In the job description of Resident Coordinator it was clearly stated that Resident Coordinator, designated representative of the SG, is the leader of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the RC acts on behalf of the UN system in an impartial way for strategically positioning the UN in each country.
- Moreover, in his briefing to ECOSOC on the repositioning of the United Nations Development System, the Secretary General noted that, despite being primarily development geared, RCs “must also be able to take a broader view and lead integrated analysis and planning processes which have significant implications for achieving the {SDGs}”.

Madame President,

- In upholding and promoting the UN’s responsibilities in a host country including the responsibilities of UN entities and staff, the Resident Coordinator also has the responsibility to be aware of the activities taken by the UN staff member in the host country.
- Sometimes, it has not been the case. Let me share my own experience with the meeting. In 2017, as then DG of the International Organizations and Economic Department, I asked the then RC regarding the works of the three OHCHR Officers who were present in Myanmar that time, she was not aware of their activities because they directly reported to the High Commissioner.

- While the RC is accountable for ensuring that the UNCT is kept fully informed on interactions s/he has on behalf of the UN system with the government, donor community and other development partners, s/he is also responsible for every actions of the UN Staff in the country. No agency should not be above others.
- In addition, we firmly believe that the consent of and close cooperation with the concerned country are more important and effective for the accomplishment of the work.

Madame President,

- Myanmar believes that mutual trust among countries, between concerned countries and the United Nations agencies can be built and strengthened only through the coordination and cooperation measures, not confrontational approaches.
- In order to build trust, transparency and openness in the relationship also plays an important role. Based on my own experience, it is vital.
- In 2016, we were in discussion with an organization to set up an early warning system in Rakhine State. I together with representatives from the organization conducted field trips to Rakhine. When we discussed the matters of information sharing, it was stalled. We told them we would share with them the information we have. Likewise, we asked them the information they have, to share with us. We understand that the organization itself has funded international and local NGOs in Myanmar and they regularly report to the donors.
- From this experience, we would like to underline that transparency and sincere cooperation are important for building trust.

Madame President,

- We share the view that “*People should be told what they need to know, not what they want to hear*”.
- As a responsible member state of the United Nations, Myanmar has always been ready and willing to assist and cooperate with the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team. We would like to stress that works of the Resident Coordinator and the UN country team should be conformity with the principle of “need driven, not donors driven”.

- In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to reiterate that the work and discussion of the Human Rights Council should avoid politicization, double standard and selectivity, while the principles of universality, impartiality and objectivity are strictly adhered to. Most importantly confrontational approaches should be avoided.
- I thank you.
