

**Statement by the Myanmar Delegation  
at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
(29 November 2013)**

*Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let me begin by extending our sincere congratulations to you on assuming the Chairmanship of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOM Council. I am confident that under your able leadership this session will be a success. My delegation would also like to thank the Director-General of the IOM for his comprehensive report.

*Mr. Chairman,*

In this year, IOM has contributed greatly to the cause of international migration and development. The Diaspora Ministerial Conference in Geneva and Second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York are among the significant ones. Effective assistance that IOM has been providing for typhoon affected population in the Philippines in recent days is a good proof of that endeavour. And, it also reminds us of the IOM's assistance and good deeds in Myanmar when it was hit by cyclone *Nargis* in 2008. We would like to express once again our thanks to IOM in this regard.

In Myanmar since March 2011, the government has been undertaking unprecedented and wide-ranging political, economic and social reforms, aim at effectively promoting the socio-economic lives of its people, and further strengthening the peace, stability and rule of law. Tangible progress has been made in these endeavours.

The Government attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of our migrant workers working abroad. The Government

makes utmost efforts to further strengthen the assistance and protection mechanism for our migrant workers. The Law Relating to Overseas Employment was enacted in 1999. In order to provide leadership and guidance in the area of overseas employment, the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee was established in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. This committee is headed by the Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security.

The Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee assists Myanmar workers to work abroad and ensures that they obtain decent work and enjoy their rights at the workplace in accordance with their host countries' laws and regulations. There are 175 government-approved overseas workers service agencies in the country. These agencies are facilitating Myanmar workers to work in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Japan and several countries in the Middle East.

In order to protect the rights of Myanmar migrant workers, bilateral arrangements have also been introduced. Myanmar signed memorandums of understanding with the Republic of Korea and Thailand for the systematic recruitment of Myanmar workers. To communicate and coordinate with Myanmar migrant workers in ensuring the protection of their rights and welfare, labour attaches have been assigned in the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. Furthermore, plans are underway to send our labour attaches to countries, such as Singapore and Kuwait.

In the course of this meeting, a country delegation, in its statement made an observation about illegal migration in our region. One thing we have to be careful is the exploitation by human trafficking gangs who traffick people in boats from countries in the region. Our view is that the real problem lies with the human traffickers.

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to further promote and protect the rights of migrant workers working abroad. In this regard, Myanmar will further intensify its cooperation and coordination with the relevant international organizations. We will continue working closely with IOM, particularly the IOM country office in Myanmar, for the betterment of the situation of our migrant workers.

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman.*