Myanmar UPR statement

- It is a great honour for me to brief you the matters relating to recent political developments which are taking place in Myanmar.

- The leader of the delegation has just made a comprehensive presentation on the progress and challenges in the field of promotion and protection of human rights in Myanmar.

- Myanmar has now reached the final stages of its transition to democracy. In 2003, the Government has announced the Seven-Step Road Map for transition to democracy. As a Fourth-Step of the Road Map, a new State Constitution was adopted through a free and fair referendum by 92.48 percent of the votes in May 2008.

- In implementing the fifth Step of the Road Map, the multi-party general elections were held on 7 November 2010, throughout the country in a free, fair and peaceful manner. The Sixth-Step of Road Map which is to convene the Hluttaw is underway, the Hluttaw will be convened on 31st January, only four days from now.
- The 2010 elections were held in 325 of the 330 Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies, accounting for 98.48 percent and in all the 168 Amyotha Hluttaw and 661 of the 673 Region or State Hluttaw constituencies.

- A total of 3069 candidates including candidates from 37 political parties and independent candidates contested in the general elections. 77.26 % of eligible voters cast votes for elections despite the campaign by certain groups not to go to the polls during the elections.

- The results of the elections have shown that it was held free from vote-rigging and violence or any kind of intimidation. The people has exercised their democratic right to transform the country to the elected government system.

- On the day of the election, foreign diplomats and news agencies were invited to the polling stations to freely observe the casting and counting of the ballots.

- We believe that transition toward democracy is a process, not an event. Therefore, we prefer to follow systematic and a step by step approach in a peaceful way to attain democracy while taking into account the unique nature of our domestic situation. The new
Government will be formed during this session of the Hluttaw. The Seven and final stage of the Road Map which is to build a modern, developed, democratic nation, fulfilling the aspiration of the people of Myanmar.

- Important matters such as further enhancing the national unity and solidarity can be discussed within the framework of the Constitution and in the parliament, the only appropriate forum to shape the political landscape of the nation.

Mr. President,

- The name of my country is Myanmar. It is the right of any member state of the UN to choose its official name. This right should be respected since it has been endorsed by the people of Myanmar in the referendum. It is also the official name in the UN. So I would like to request the participating states to respect that right and also like to request you, Mr. President to ensure that the UN practice is followed in this August Assembly.

- This session is an opportunity to conduct open, constructive and candid dialogue with other delegations. We also welcome comments and recommendations.

Thank you.