

**Statement of H.E. Pisanu Chanvitan,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
In the ID with SR on situation of human rights in Myanmar
12 March 2012**

Madame President,

Thailand welcomes the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Quintana, and thanks him for his report. We commend him for his willingness to learn and understand the situation with objectivity and for his persistent efforts to engage constructively with the government of Myanmar. Such efforts now bear fruits in his latest report, which, we believe, reflects a fair assessment of the current situation on the ground and contains useful recommendations for further improvement.

As a member of ASEAN, Thailand fully subscribes to the statement made earlier by Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.

Within just one year of the new government, we have witnessed many encouraging developments in Myanmar. We have seen, among others, the broadening of political space, the improvement of various legislations, the establishment of national human rights commission, and the introduction of a new national poverty reduction plan. For Thailand, the most important development is the cease fire agreements with ethnic minorities, which we hope could lead to long lasting peace along the border of the two countries and eventually the safe return of Myanmar displaced persons to their places of origin.

Challenges may still remain as pointed out in the Special Rapporteur's report. And more have to be done by the government of Myanmar. But we must bear in mind that reform and democratization process takes time and the changes thus far have been genuine. What is important now is to make sure that the progress is irreversible.

At this crucial moment in Myanmar's history, the international community should ask ourselves what more we can do to support the country and its people.

Political support is important. This is where the Council has an important role to play. The resolution on the human rights situation in Myanmar this year must send out the right message. Fair recognition of the positive efforts by the Government is important to nurture the domestic reform process. And overall the resolution must be the one that is forward looking, balanced, constructive and create a favorable environment for a genuine cooperation.

At the same time, the international community should provide more concrete support to the government of Myanmar, particularly to promote the much-needed social and economic development. More assistance should be provided upon the requests of the government. Economic sanctions which contribute to the hardship of people's lives should be lifted.

Lastly, with the continuous improvement of the situation on the ground and greater openness and cooperation on the part of the government of Myanmar, there may be a need to review the means of engagement of the international community. As a neighbouring country and ASEAN colleague, Thailand hopes to see the issue of Myanmar eventually phase out from the agenda of the Council as we look towards the future.

Thank you, Madame President.
