

**Statement by H.E. Maj-Gen. Maung Maung Swe,
Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of
the Union of Myanmar, at the Global Platform for
Disaster Risk Reduction**

(16-19 June 2009, Geneva, Switzerland)

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mingalabar to you all. [*Mingalabar* is a Myanmar word the meaning of which is more or less close to the meaning of auspiciousness.]

At the outset, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to have this opportunity to deliver a statement at the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on behalf of the Union of Myanmar. ~~(Next)~~

Myanmar established the National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) in 2005 in accordance with the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister. ~~(Next)~~ There are 10 Sub-committees under NDPCC which have been entrusted with the implementation of the policy in accordance with the guidelines of NDPCC. Similarly, State/Division-, District-, Township- and Village Tract-level Disaster Preparedness Committees have also been formed respectively. ~~(Next)~~

When Myanmar was struck by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, (Next) Myanmar encountered unprecedented damage and loss in its history. (Next) The NDPCC took the lead in carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks. (Next) In doing so, a large number of service personnel and huge amount of material resources of the Armed Forces were utilized. (Next) A cabinet minister was assigned to each of the storm-hit township for the close and effective supervision of relief and rehabilitation tasks in the township concerned. (Next) Also the Ministries concerned, local NGOs, INGOs and the entire people wholeheartedly participated in emergency relief tasks. (Next)

The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) comprising of representatives from the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations was formed. Emergency relief tasks were successful, thanks to Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) and Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) developed by TCG. (Next)

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After finishing emergency relief tasks, the rehabilitation of agriculture, (Next) fishery (Next) and salt production has been carried out with the support of the Government, local and international donors. (Next) Reconstruction of schools, (Next) the health facilities (Next) and low-cost rural houses are being carried out with utmost efforts, according to the basis of Built Back Better

Local construction companies have participated in the reconstruction tasks. ^{to invest today for a safer tomorrow} **(Next)** The State is building a network of five main roads in Nargis affected regions for the development of the regions and also to be used as safe places in case of disaster. **(Next)** In addition, the State has planned to build 20 cyclone shelters in the coastal areas, **(Next)** and earthworks and construction tasks have now been commenced. **(Next)**

In order to upgrade early warning system, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology is cooperating with the World Meteorological Organization, and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). In Myanmar, an Earthquake Hazard Map has been drawn up. **(Next)**

To strengthen disaster preparedness, the National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee promulgated the Standing Order on Disaster Management in January, 2009. **(Next)** The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is conducting trainings and workshops in collaboration with UN Agencies, INGOs and NGOs for capacity building of Government staffs and NGO staffs in the field of disaster management. **(Next)**

To reduce the risks of disasters, the Dry Zone Greening Project is implemented in 13 Districts in Myanmar to prevent drought. Mangroves are being replanted, and cluster of dams are being constructed to prevent flood. Myanmar is now developing Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) with the technical support of the Asian Disaster

Preparedness Centre (ADPC). I would like to inform you that ^{are made available at the} Post Nargis Rehabilitation DVDs ~~have already been distributed~~ ^{extern} for more information.

In conclusion, I would like to state that Myanmar is making best efforts to effectively implement disaster management programmes within our own means with the objective to mitigate loss of lives and properties and natural resources of the nation in case of disasters. **(Next)**

Thank You.