**Report on discrimination against women in nationality-related matters, including the impact on children-Human Rights Council Resolution20/4**

1. After acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women on 22nd July, 1997, Myanmar is more implementing the right and liberty of all Myanmar Women than before.
2. According to section 120 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar(2008), women are entitled to be elected as a Pyithu Hluttaw representative. Section 348 of the Constitution states that “The Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, based on race, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth”.
3. Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs (MNCWA) was established on 3rd July, 1996 in line with Beijing(12)Platforms for Actions with the intention of carrying out women protection and development tasks. Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs(MNCWA) is a National Mechanism under Ministry of Social Welfare,Relief and Resettlement.

4. Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has been formed since 20th December 2003. Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has organized the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organizations to the grass root level. Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has been carrying out awareness raising to protect women from violence and trafficking in persons, opening counseling centers, receiving complaint letters and sending it to the concerned for taking action, disseminating the Laws which protect women through media for all Myanmar women.

5. Moreover, the Department of Social Welfare has opened the (3) Girls Training Schools to take care of girls between the age of (5)to (18) , the (4) Vocational Training Center for Women, the (2) Women Development Center for Women for the protection of vulnerable women over (18), the (2) Center for Women Care for HIV/AIDS women in Prisons and the (7) Schools for Home Sciences for the vocational training of women in community and (1)temporary Shelter for Trafficked victims.

6. For Future Women leaders, leadership Negotiation skills subject has been provided to basic junior officer training at CSSTB since 1999. The Continuation of program will be provided. Moreover Leadership & Negotiation skills trainings are being provided in Private sector by their own arrangement across the nation. Women’s right has been provided as a subject in all trainings at Civil Service Selection and Training Board in upper Myanmar and lower Myanmar.

7. With the Collaboration of UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, and INGOS such as Action Aid, CARE, GOI, AFXB, LIFT, the department of social welfare established women friendly Space. Moreover, management trainings, income generating program, Vocational training, Food security training, Animal husbandry training, Counseling training and Health Education training are being provided in the Communities for women’s capacity building, with the collaboration of the DSW, UN and INGOs.

8. To Broadly implement 12 Critical area of Beijing Plat Form for Action and Millennium Development Goals No(3) Gender equality, National Plan of Action for the advancement of women (2012-2021) has been drafted by the leadership of the DSW and Contribution of concerned government departments, UN Agency, INGOs for the development of Myanmar Women and fully enjoying their rights. The Plan of Action contains 12 areas based on Beijing Platform for Action. Furthermore, Department of Social Welfare is developing Women Protection Law with the technical supports from Foreign Consultant.

9. Myanmar is an active member in ASEAN Commission on Women and Children’s rights and ASEAN Committee on women.As a consequence,Myanmar has been actively participating in women protection and development activities at national,regional and international level.

10. With the collaboration of UNHCR, the following activities were able to be provided in order to promote the capacity building of the women living in Maung Taw, Bu Thee Taung and Rathay Taung’s townships;

1. Building and managing community based development centers to conduct education and community based activities / programmes.
2. Providing computer training courses and other courses to the members of the committee based social affairs committee in the village and also providing computer courses to young boys and girls.

(c) Providing basic spoken Myanmar language courses to teenagers and adult about 5,000 yearly, spoken language courses for primary children to improve their spoken Myanmar Language

proficiency and to be able to have a continuous study at school,in collaboration with heads of the state and township educational officers.

(d) Providing early childhood development training programme for 2000 young children who are 3 to 5 years of age as a pre-school plan.

(e) Helping the young children especially approximately 6,000 girls a year, for those who passed the primary level, to study at post-primary schools or for those who left school very early to recontinue their education.

(f) Establishing the young female’s hostels for the girls who do not have opportunity of studying in their native village because of the lack of post-primary schools ;

(g) According to the “Education for All,”program supplying stationary to every child such as books , pens and ballpens free of charges throughout Maung Taw District with the aim of giving opportunity to every child, girl or boy, regardless of races or religion.

11. Under the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation , the Working group on Protection and Rehabilitation takes measures such as establishing counselling centres for women who have social problems, raising awareness of existing laws, screening and reviewing letters of complaint and preventing trafficking in women by education and information campaigns. Providing Training courses on gender equality and distributing essential information of the human right and also providing Health assistance and legal affairs to those who are sexually misconducted .

12. In 2011, the partner organizations of UNHCR provided (8) awareness raising training sessions on the essential role of women for the advancement of the community, the importance of upholding women’s rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women to (2749) persons. UNHCR has specifically targeted awareness raising-training among community/ religious leaders as part of our efforts to empower women and prevent from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

13. Moreover, UNHCR also has contact with Myanmar police Force and Border Immigration Head Quarter to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents and individual difficulties . International Day of Women was celebrated and also “16 day-event against gender based violence”was celebrated at the local town hall for the first time in northem Rakhine State.The ceremony on against gender based violence and public movement walking.

14. In 2011 , (31) women / girls in northern Rakhine State approached UNHCR for assistance as survivors of Sexual & Gender Based Violence(SGVB). Complaint cases with References were referred to the local authorities for intervention.

15. Within the Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships,Bengalis residing in Maungdaw District are not national races but are mixed with blood of foreigners and suspected foreigners. With a view to scrutinizing whether they are legal residents or not and preventing illegal infiltration of foreigners to our country , their travels are being scrutinized by the respective Immigration and National Registration Department. In doing so, persons with travel permit recommendation Form 4 are allowed to travel beyond township/Region/State in accordance with laws and procedures of the Immigration and National Registration Department. Nowadays, Bengalis women residing in the Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships have got freely the permission for movement especially for education and health without travel permit.

16. Since Bengalis residing in Maungdaw District share similar language, physical characters and features to those from the neighbouring country,it is necessary to take steps not to unknowingly marry with those of that country and scrutinize them whether they are really residents of the Myanmar, holding official household registration and are 18 years old or not.Those who have met the above criteria are allowed to marry freely,950 couples in 2011 and 104 couples in 2012 were scrutinized and allowed to marry in Maungdaw township . 2,094 couples and 265 couples in 2011 respectively in Buthidaung township. Despite the above scrutiny,it was learnt that there were more than 8,000 illegitimate children whose nationality and father cannot be identified.Among them 2000 children are being delivered birth registeration in May 2012. The delivering of birth registeration task will be done for remaining 6000 children continuously.

17. In connection with pregnant women in Maungdaw Township,the Department of Health,Hospitals/dispensaries are not only taking care of women regardless of race or religion but also birth spacing projects for all religions are being implemented in cooperation with UN agencies and INGOs / NGOs.The Department of Health’s data in Maungdaw Township indicates 15,799 pregnant women in 2011 and 1248 pregnant women in 2012(as of 17/2/2012) respectively.The average birth rate for Maungdaw is 27.2 out of 1,000 persons and the pregnancy ratio is 3.5 out of 100 persons.As per data of the Department of Health of Buthidaung Township,there are 8392 pregnant women in 2011 and the birth rate is 25 out of 1,000 persons.

18. Action has been precisely taken to safeguard national security and national interest, by issuing local order 1/2009 of the Border Immigration Head Quarter of Maungdaw dated 11.8.2009 concerning travelling matter, migration, marriages, birth , separation from family list of Bengali races residing in Buthidaung and Maungdaw District.

19. With the intention to strengthen knowledge on women’s right widely the necessary awareness raising trainings and small group discussion on CEDAW and Gender were conducted with the collaboration of UNFPA in Nay Pyi Taw, Southern Shan State, Mon State, Yangon Regional Division, Ayeyawaddy Regional Division, Magwe Regional Division and Sagaing Regional Division. In doing so, the Gender Curriculum is developing by the Department of Social Welfare with the technical supports from international Consultants.