

MYANMAR INFORMATION COMMITTEE YANGON  
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**The Government of Myanmar welcomes the report of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child and looks forward to continued cooperation in humanitarian issues**

The Government of Myanmar welcomes the recent report of the Committee on the Rights of Child issued on 4 June, 2004. The Government also appreciates the Committee's acknowledgement of the many positive steps such as:

- (a) The creation of the National Human Rights Committee in 2000.
- (b) The adoption of Rules and Regulations related to Child Law in 2001.
- (c) The creation of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation in 2003 whose mandate includes promotion and protection of the rights of children.
- (d) The establishment of National AIDS Program and the development of the "Joint Program for HIV/AIDS Myanmar 2001-2005."
- (e) National Health Plan 1996-2001 which achieved high immunization coverage for a significant part of the population.
- (f) Joint Plan of Action for the elimination of forced labor with ILO.
- (g) "Education for All" national action plan

These are some of the many substantive developments the Government has taken to protect the rights of children since the last periodic report. Myanmar welcomes the constructive commentary from the international community and appreciates the pragmatic, sincere and serious advice extended. The Government believes in the power of ideas, and the open exchange of views. We believe that the cooperation, rather than the confrontation, is the path to genuine progress. The Committee's recommendations and observations will be carefully reviewed and implemented as appropriate.

The Government appreciates the Committee's understanding that Myanmar is carrying out matters related to children and other humanitarian issues almost on its own and with little or no outside assistance, practically receiving less than one U.S. dollar per capita per year in foreign aid. The Committee will also be aware that most of the time, humanitarian issues in Myanmar are unfortunately being linked to political issues by those with vested interests from outside.

Regrettably, the recent Committee's report on Myanmar, regarding the humanitarian aspect, has been again taken well out of context by those with vested interests. These individuals and groups are not only trying to make a political issue out of it but to prevent assistance and support from reaching the Myanmar people paving the way to poverty, hardship and suffering in the country. Those with self centered agenda and interest desperately need to exploit small and developing countries like Myanmar to justify their existence is regretful.

The people of Myanmar together with the Government are confident that Myanmar's efforts to provide greater protection to children will be successful as it with the fight to eradicate illegal drugs has proven so. With this in mind in the interests of providing greater protection to children, the Government of Myanmar looks forward to continued cooperation with the Committee as well as relevant U.N. organizations for this noble cause.

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