



Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar  
to the United Nations Office and  
other International Organizations, Geneva  
Tel. (41-22) 906-9870, 906-9871, Fax. 732-8919

No. 13 /3-27/01

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva with reference to the latter's Note dated 17 December 2010 regarding the information requested by the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, has the honour to enclose herewith information provided by the authorities concerned of the Union of Myanmar relating to the questionnaire *"Impact of the reductions in social expenditure on those living in extreme poverty"* forwarded by the independent expert.

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 12 January 2011

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Geneva  
Fax: 022 917 9006

OHCHR REGISTRY

13 JAN. 2011

Recipients :.....SPD.....

.....  
.....  
.....

IGAD (HEAD GENERAL

FAY, NO. : 412-11000

### III Questionnaire

For all questions, if available, please provide relevant assessments, baseline studies, programmatic outlines, programme evaluations etc.

## Post-crisis adjustment and fiscal consolidation processes 2010 onwards)

- Q.1. Has your country adopted, or does it expect to adopt contractionary fiscal policy in the aftermath of the global economic crisis?
- A. Myanmar has not directly hit by global recession and world financial crisis, given its low level of trade and financial linkages with industrial countries. Along with continuing economic reforms to promote economic growth activities and to uplift the living standards of population, fiscal strengthening is being carried out to pursue infrastructure investment while more have been spent on social outlays. In this regard, Myanmar has not adopted contractionary fiscal policy in the aftermath of the global economic crisis.
- Q.2. What percentage if any, of expenditure reductions are being or will be directed at social expenditures, including education, health, social security, housing water and sanitation?
- A. Any reductions are not made on social expenditures. Since Myanmar authorities are making efforts for equitable development of the country and narrowing the development gap to reduce poverty, the social expenditures including education, health, social security, housing water and sanitation has been increasingly spent to improve the public health, education and social infrastructure. Spending on social services was amounted to Kyat 442.7 billion in FY 2010/11 and increased by 21.28 percent from that of FY 2009/2010. Currently, social expenditure spending is about 17.2 percent of total expenditure.
- Q.3. Please describe all actual or proposed reductions in expenditure on special social protection programs including any reduction of benefits or number of beneficiaries.
- A. There are no reductions in expenditure on special social protection programs.
- Q.4. Please describe all actual or proposed reductions in expenditure on the wage bill, including any cap or cut in wages of public health and education sectors workers?
- A. There is no reduction in expenditure on the wage bill. Furthermore, Public sector wages were raised five to twelve fold in 2006/07 and an incremental adjustment was made in January 2010 by supplementing a flat 20,000 kyats to all different pay scales.
- Q.5. Have current economic recovery policies taken into account development in unemployment, food prices and social inequalities?
- A. Myanmar authorities have implemented a series of short term five year plans to achieve high growth rate and the progress in the socio economic condition of the country. Currently the Fourth Short Term Five Year Plan has been implementing with sixteen objectives which include extending education and health sectors for human resource development and the alleviation of poverty. Participation of private sector investment in infrastructure and economic development projects have been encouraged to create more job opportunities for the local populace. Since Myanmar is a food sufficient country and emphasis has been placed on ensuring self sufficiency and surplus on export, there was no impact of rising international food prices.
- Q.6. Does your country expect to restore public expenditure after a certain time period, and, if so, when?
- A. Fiscal policy is broadly unchanged with consolidated public sector deficit projected to remain at around 3 ½ percent of GDP in recent years. The authorities acknowledged large infrastructure needs and plans to increase capital spending while a realistic consolidation

+41 22 732 73 77

:GAD/HEAD GENERAL

FAX NO. :412411088

11 Jan. 2011 9:17AM P2

3/c

plan is necessary for fiscal sustainability and to keep inflation in check. There is also substantial room within the current budget envelope to reallocate spending to education and health, and infrastructure projects, especially in agriculture and power generation.

**Impact of the reductions in social expenditure on those living in extreme poverty:**

7. What is the assessment of the current access of the most vulnerable groups (particularly women, children, the older people and persons with disabilities) to social goods, services and assistance, which are essential to their enjoyment of human rights? To what extent is their inadequate access attributable to the reductions in social expenditure? Please provide major findings.
8. Did the Government carry out any impact analysis (incidences analysis) of the impact of the public expenditure or social expenditure reduction on the most vulnerable groups in society prior to its implementation? If yes, please provide major findings.
9. Were any alternative carry out any impact analysis (incidences analysis) of the impact of the public expenditure or social expenditure reduction on the most vulnerable groups in society prior to its implementation? If yes, please provide major findings.
10. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the human rights of those living in extreme poverty are protected, respected and fulfilled in light of reductions in public expenditure?
11. Please indicate whether there was a public consultation prior to taking measures to reduce public expenditure. If yes; please describe which non-governmental agencies or groups were consulted.