MYANMAR

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Statement by Ambassador Hau Do Suan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations at the 12th session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
(New York, 12 June 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

The situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Myanmar has improved substantially over the past decade, a commitment which is reflected at both the international, regional and national levels. The 2008 Constitution of Myanmar guarantees the fundamental rights and equal opportunities of the disabled citizens.

In 2011, the Government took an important step forward in its international commitment by acceding to the CRPD. Since then, it has undertaken significant steps towards the full realization of the Convention. A milestone was achieved in June 2015 when the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was enacted which ensures the empowerment of persons with disabilities in Myanmar.

In 2017, the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disability were established. Myanmar is also actively taking part in the activities of regional frameworks including within ASEAN.

The Myanmar National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, chaired by the Vice President, held its Fourth Meeting yesterday, 11 June in Myanmar which coincides with our meeting here in New York.

The Government is also undertaking legislative reforms which include revamping the Child Rights Law with a whole chapter dedicated to the rights of children with disabilities.

A national strategic master plan for people with disabilities (2020-2025) is currently being drafted and it is expected to be completed in December this year. It is in line with the 2030 Agenda and will complement the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. The master plan envisions to significantly increase opportunities and participation of persons with disabilities in all areas towards building an inclusive society.

The Government has laid down an inclusive education policy with special educational programs for disabled children. Schools for children with special needs and disabled care centres for different kinds of disabilities have been set up across the country. Moreover, care giver trainings for parents of special needs children have been conducted.

Another important initiative is the launch of the Handbook on "Employing Persons with Disabilities" in 2018 to help employers to promote employment of persons with disabilities and to create accessible employment opportunities for them.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reassuring our commitment to make every effort to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities and create an inclusive environment. We shall continue to work with our local and international partners to the full realization of the Convention with a view to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda with leaving no one behind.

I thank you.

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