MYANMAR

Statement by H.E. U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Tenth Session of CRPD on 14 June 2017

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you for your well-deserved election as the Chair of this important Session. Our congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. I assure you of Myanmar delegation's full support and cooperation.

The Government of Myanmar has always attaches great importance to the protection and promotion of the rights and well-being of all people with disability. Myanmar's constitution stipulates specific provisions to care for the disadvantaged and most vulnerable groups in the society including children, the aged and the disabled.

The Constitution also ensures that all citizens enjoy equal opportunity in pursuit of education, employment and business opportunities, without discrimination. Moreover, all disable persons have the right to participation in all political and public life, including, the right to vote and the right to be elected to public offices.

Myanmar became a party to CRPD in December 2011. Since then, we have taken many important steps for the implementation of the Convention. The Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Disabilities was enacted in June 2015. The Law stipulates to ensure the empowerment of the persons with disabilities to be able to take part in all spheres of social and professional life.

Furthermore, in compliance with the article 33 of the CRPD, the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Myanmar Disability Federation have been established. 13 Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) are now working actively in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare.

The 2014 Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan provides the rights of persons with disability to disability allowance, work training, universal health coverage benefit, social welfare services and targeted services in times of disasters.

The Government of Myanmar has also been working in partnership and in cooperation with a number of regional and international organizations for implementation of the Convention. These partners include, among others, the Association for Aid and Relief, the Leprosy Mission, Action Aid (Myanmar), UNICEF, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Heart, Triangle

GH, Handicapped International, World Vision Myanmar, Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and ASEAN members

United Nations has always been a steadfast partner for Myanmar in the national effort to promote and protect the rights of people of disabilities. In collaboration with UNICEF and the Leprosy Mission (Myanmar), the Government has launched Early Childhood Intervention- ECI Pilot Project in April this year. ECI pilot projects are currently being implemented in four Townships and projected to multiply nationwide starting from 2019 to 2025. A number of CSOs and 13 Disabled People's Organizations are actively working together with the Government departments in this project.

Also in cooperation with UNICEF, situational analysis on children with disabilities was conducted in selected 9 townships in March 2016. Consequently, government agencies have been undertaking consultations with UNICEF to classify the degree of disability and to issue disability certificate.

With the aim of ensuring a disability inclusive society, sign language supporter trainings and sign language services have been provided. Furthermore, the text of CEDAW had been translated into sign language, and CRPD will also be available in sign language shortly. Sign language close captions are now available on national television channels and news programs.

For visually impaired children, special schools are introduced at primary level. Arrangements have been made for them to be able to continue their education at high schools and universities under "Inclusive Education" scheme. Innovation of a Myanmar JAVA voice software has made it significantly easier for visually impaired persons to use computer and to assist their learning.

In collaboration with INGOs, NGOs and Disabled People's Organizations, the government is conducting disability awareness programs and workshops across the country to promote non-discrimination and equal opportunity for people with disabilities. Advocacy meetings and pre-job training have been held for people with disabilities to have greater access to employment opportunities and income generation in accord with CRPD.

The Government of Myanmar supports and takes the lead in organizing annual Para Arts Festivals, arranging recreational activities, supporting the outstanding athletes to participate in ASEAN Para Games and organizing annual national disability sports competitions to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports.

Inclusive development with the full participation of people with disabilities is crucial to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda to ensure no one is left behind. As a state party to CRPD, Myanmar is determined to continue implementation of the Convention to build a better future for persons with disabilities. We will continue to work hand in hand with the UN and the international community to overcome the challenges facing the disabled and the disadvantaged to help them become strong, confident and able citizens of the society.

Thank you.

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