MYANMAR

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Statement by Ambassador Ms. Hmway Hmway Khyne,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations
at the High-Level meeting of the General Assembly on the Occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
(New York, 20 November 2019)

Mr. President,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) delivered earlier.

Mr. President,

We are proud to join in today's commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which is regarded as the most important global instrument for children and one of the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

While the lives of millions of children have been improved since the adoption of CRC 30 years ago, the situation of children is still critical in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries. Many challenges remain to ensure the full realization of their rights.

As one of the earliest member states in the region to ratify the Convention, Myanmar takes this opportunity to reaffirm our commitments to the full realization of the Convention to ensure children's rights. The government is fully committed to support every child to reach their full potential in fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, making sure that no child is left behind. We also reiterate our support to the collective efforts to further the rights of children globally.

Mr. President,

Myanmar has achieved considerable progress in child rights since becoming a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. The government has devoted in critical areas of health, education, protection and legislation among others to promote the rights of children. The National budget allocation to social sectors increased from 12.2% in 2016/17 to 13.8% in 2018/19.

As a responsible party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Myanmar enacted the National Child Law in 1993. The Child Law has been revised and adopted by the Union Parliament on July 2019 to align the national policies and regulatory frameworks with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Moreover, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Prevention of the Six Grave Violations during Armed Conflict was established on 7 January 2019, to prevent and address violations against children in armed conflict.

Most recently, during the 74th UNGA High Level Week, Myanmar ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), to reinforce our on-going efforts to protect and promote child rights to fulfill our international commitments.

Mr. President,

Peace and economic development constitutes essential enabling environment for full realization of the rights of children. The Government of Myanmar has been striving relentlessly to end decade-long internal armed conflict that causes great negative impacts upon innocent children. Conflicts deprived them of their rights to education, well being and most of all, their hope and aspiration for the future. The on-going peace process of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference includes protection of the rights of children as one of its basic principles in building a sustainable peace.

Mr. President,

Despite being a nascent democratic state with myriads of security and developmental challenges, we will continue to give top priority to the promotion, protection and fulfillment of the rights of children. We will continue to strive for the full realization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I wish to conclude by expressing our deep appreciations to the UNICEF for almost 70 years of its invaluable contribution in uplifting millions of mothers and children in Myanmar. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the UNICEF in our national efforts to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda so that no child is left behind.

I thank you.

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