Country Statement of His Excellency Professor Dr. WinMyat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to be delivered at the Ministerial segment of High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022)

30.11.2017 Beijing, China

Good Morning/Afternoon
Honorable Excellences
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen…..

It is my great privilege to be here with all of you in this very important event. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for having this chance to make the country statement of Myanmar on the Ministerial Segment of High-Level Inter governmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. And my appreciation goes to the government of the Republic of China for its excellent arrangement and hospitality for this important event.

Honorable Excellences
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen…..

Aiming at improving overall life quality of persons with disabilities in Myanmar, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Social Welfare is generally undertaking institution based and community based rehabilitation tasks.
Especially, we are developing and adopting the policy frameworks, for instance, the Right of Persons with Disabilities Law (2015) which was enacted in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that Myanmar ratified back in 2011. Based on the Law, we are now processing to promulgate the Bylaws and National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was recently formed.

Programs related to the education, health, employment, legal, disability awareness, and community participation of persons with disabilities are planning in each fiscal year of the government.

**Honorable Excellences**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen…..**

Regarding reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects, the National Committee will adopt, implement, and administer the policies and projects concerning the equal right to work for persons with disabilities as the others and ensuring non-discrimination in employment process. It will also carry out to establishing and conducting trainings for job opportunities of persons with disabilities through coordination with organizations.

Ensuring to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political and in decision-making processes, the Law points out that the persons with disabilities who are eligible to vote under the law shall have the right to vote by secret ballot for a particular parliament. And, the citizens with disabilities, in line with
the Constitution and existing election laws, shall have the right to be elected a particular parliament.

To enhance access to physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication, the Law urges the National Committee to adopt the guidelines on renovating and designing public buildings and their environments for ensuring physical safety and mental satisfaction of persons with disabilities and developing architectural designs to make accessible and barrier free environments for persons with disabilities in public places.

**Honorable Excellences**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen…..**

In case of strengthening Social Protection, Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan was adopted in 2014. Accordingly, certified persons with disabilities will get social protection benefits through flagship program of disability allowance. In relation to this, we are developing disability certification and registration process to ensure persons with disabilities will be receiving benefits with the others to arranged training programs and developmental tasks providing by the government and other development partners.

In relation to expand early intervention, Myanmar adopted National Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Intervention (2017-2021), a national service program for all children with special needs and their families. That strategic plan will facilitate the scale-up in implementation of early childhood development policy (2014) and its
multi-sectoral services, to reach the most disadvantaged children in Myanmar: leaving no one behind. Once implemented, this National Strategic Plan will enable Myanmar to address several Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its commitments under Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

According to the Law, every child with disability have the right of educational opportunities including early childhood care and lifelong learning, access to certain free education level at schools run by Ministry of Education, on an equal basis with others in the communities where they live or as close as possible to their communities.

**Honorable Excellences**
**Distinguished Delegates**
**Ladies and Gentlemen…..**

Ensuring gender equality and women’s empowerment, the Law states women with disabilities have the right to participate in decision making process of the society and the right to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to health, education, and business, the right of participation in activities and programs aims for the persons with disabilities on an equal basis with men with disabilities, the right to participate in and entitle from every program dedicated for the women and the right to be protected from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination including different types of extreme violence and domestic violence.
For ensuring disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management, the Law describes to prepare disability sensitive activities on search and rescue activity, protection, safety, and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities during humanitarian emergencies and carry out coordination to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in rehabilitation activities including prevention and preparation for situations of risk.

Improving the reliability and comparability of disability data, Myanmar drafted National Action Plan for operationalizing the Incheon Strategy indicators in Myanmar in close collaboration with the UNESCAP.

Myanmar ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011. In line with the Convention, Myanmar enacted the Right of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015. Currently, the Bylaws is now to enact and National Committee was formed in order to ensure effective implementation of the Law.

Also, Myanmar National Strategy for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2025) was developed and adopted to ensure the implementation of Incheon strategy with a view to develop disability inclusive infrastructures, practices, systems and policies in Myanmar.

We always admire the works of UNESCAP to improve all round development of persons with disabilities.

Since it is now technology age, Myanmar as a developing country would like to suggest UNESCAP to focusing on access to
technology by all persons with disabilities, especially, for those living in rural areas. That will be enhancing their abilities, full participation and their rights to education, health, and job opportunities.

According to UN principle ‘leaving no one behind’, we have to consider the effective implementation and strengthening Self Help Groups of persons with disabilities in the region which is the most basic foundations of enriching social participation, developing self-esteem, self-reliance and capacity of persons with disabilities.

Before my conclusion, Myanmar propose to be the participant country of Working Group for next five years and look forward to organize one working group meeting in Myanmar.

In conclusion, as a member of international community, we would like to reaffirm our commitment and obligation to this effort and we do hope through this collective effort we will be able to nurture an equitable, inclusive, and prosperous society.

Thank you very much.