

Promotion and protection of labour rights

Mr. President,

1. I am Tin Mar Htwe, Director from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. I will touch briefly on legal reform for labour rights.
2. Since the new democratic government took its office, most of the labour laws were reviewed, amended, redrafted and new ones were enacted.
3. Current labour legislation includes, but not limited to, the Labour Organization Law, Settlement of Labour Dispute Law, Minimum Wage Law, Employment and Skill Development Law and Social Security Law.
4. One of the most important laws in this area is the Law Amending the Ward and Village Tract Administration Law of 2012 which criminalizes and penalizes forced labour. This law carries one year imprisonment or 100,000 kyats fine of both for any perpetrators. Since 2002, a MoU was signed with ILO to install a Liaison Officer in Myanmar. The forced labour complaint mechanism with ILO set up since 2007 is functioning smoothly. We are also implementing a Joint Strategy for the Elimination of Forced Labour by 2015 with ILO. As a result, number of complaints on forced labour is now substantially decreased.

Mr. President,

5. Myanmar's ratification of the ILO Convention No. 182 the Worst Forms of Child Labour, has greatly contributed to child rights. Following it, we are implementing the framework of Myanmar Programme on Elimination of Child Labour with the ILO which runs from 2014 to 2017

in order to develop a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient multi-stakeholder response to reduce child labour in Myanmar.

6. To further consolidate our children's rights, Myanmar will be exploring to join other important ILO's instruments pertaining to child rights including 1973 Minimum Age Convention No. 138. After joining it, domestic legislation and necessary measures will follow to implement the Convention.

7. It is important to highlight here that Myanmar is a developing country. As such, all family members including children tend to take up a job, unfortunately, to contribute to family's income. As Myanmar's economy is improving, this scenario is changing for better.

Mr. President,

8. We have also made significant progress on freedom of association. After existence of 2011 Labour Organization Law, a total of 1914 employers and labour organizations were formed. The Confederation of Trade Union Myanmar was formed in July 2015 as the country's first national level labour organization.

9. Addressing labour disputes through dialogue is also important element in labour rights. In line with the 2012 Settlement of Labour Dispute Law, tripartite mechanisms such as 325 Conciliation Bodies at township level, 15 Arbitration Bodies at Region and State level and a Central Arbitration Council were formed.

10. An initiative to promote Fundamental Labour rights and Practices designed to improve Labour Administration System has been launched since 2014 in close cooperation with US, Japan, Denmark and ILO.

11. Myanmar became a member of the IOM in 2012 and working closely with the IOM and ILO for promoting and protecting the rights of our migrant workers. Since 2013, Complaint Mechanism Centers ^{were} are opened by 24 hours in major cities including Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon to address the needs of migrant workers. Moreover, the Migrant Workers' Reporting Counter ^{were} was opened at the Yangon International Airport for 24 hours service with the aim of easy access for Overseas Employment.

Mr. President,

12. The Government of Myanmar is committed to intensify efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls both at national and international levels. Considerable numbers of women are occupying Minister, Deputy Minister, Director General, Ambassador and Parliamentarian posts in Myanmar and the number is growing.

13. I thank you.
