

As of 5th November 2015
1200 hrs

**Signing of Core International Human Rights Instruments and Cooperation with
Special Rapporteur**

Mr. President,

1. I am Thant Sin, Deputy Director-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. I would like to response to the queries related to the ratification of core international human rights treaties. During the first cycle of UPR, Myanmar received a total of 9 recommendations on the matter, which we mostly accepted. At the time of the first review cycle, Myanmar was a state party to 2 core international conventions namely CRC and CEDAW.
3. In implementing the recommendations at the first UPR Cycle, Myanmar acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011. Following the promulgation of the 2015 domestic law, national measures on promotion of sign language, vocational trainings and advocacy was undertaken. Myanmar also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography on 16 Jan 2012, just one year after the review process.

Mr. President,

4. The year 2015 was of significance to Myanmar in terms of legislative developments as we have decided to sign more international core human rights instruments to fulfill the recommendations made by other countries. To name a few, in July, Myanmar signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Authorities concerned from respective ministries and agencies in Myanmar had to carefully study the covenant and discuss article by article through rounds of discussions. Afterward, the Cabinet and the Parliament have to approve our participation in the Treaty. With a view to further promoting and protecting the rights of children, the same lengthy process has to follow to sign the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 28 September 2015. Ratification process of these instruments will be done after necessary steps such as developing domestic laws, procedures and designating national implementing agencies. The obligations will then be carried out in line with national interest.

Mr. President,

5. Taking this opportunity, I would like to update the Working Group on our roadmap to become a signatory to the Convention Against Torture. On 7th of last month, Myanmar had decided to become a member of Group of Friends of the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), which aims to have universal ratification of the Convention Against Torture by 2024. The Myanmar's decision to join the Group is to help prepare ourselves with a view to joining CAT in future. It also clearly demonstrates our political will to become a state party to the convention in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. President,

6. In principle, Myanmar rejects country-specific mandates including that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar as they do not create a conducive environment for constructive engagement and genuine dialogue for promotion and protection of human rights. Myanmar firmly believes this UPR process is the most dependable and uncontroversial monitoring mechanism to address and ratify human rights situations in all countries on an equal footing.

7. However, we have facilitated every visit of the Special Rapporteurs and other mandate holders as cooperation with the United Nations is one of the cornerstones of Myanmar's foreign policy. We are confident that the cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar will be further strengthened in the new democratic era of our country.

8. In the spirit of cooperation and in good faith, Myanmar invited and received Special Rapporteur Ms. Yanghee Lee, for a five-day visit in August 2015. The visit was her third since the assumption of her mandate in May 2014. In spite of unavoidable changes in her programme due to security and severe weather conditions, the visit turned out to be a successful one. To enhance mutual understanding and trust, we have encouraged the Special Rapporteur to further diversify and enrich her source of information so that allegations and speculations will no longer be in the content of her important report.

9. We have also strengthened our own national human rights commission and established human rights dialogues with Japan, US and EU.

Mr. President,

10. All major concerns related to human rights have been addressed to a larger extent in Myanmar. This progress is contributing to the better enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Myanmar people. Therefore, we are now fully convinced that

Myanmar should no longer remain on the agendas of the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. We need your understanding and constructive engagement with Myanmar.

11. I thank you.
