**Cooperation with the United Nations (including with Special Rapporteur),**

**Accession to International Human Rights Treaties and**

**Providing Humanitarian Assistance**

**(25 January 2021)**

**Madame President,**

1. I am Marlar Than Htaik, Director-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. I wish to stress three areas such as cooperation with the United Nations, accession to International Human Rights Treaties and the implementation of the Treaties and providing humanitarian assistance.

**Cooperation with the United Nations**

3. As anchored in our Foreign Policy, we would like to reaffirm our continued cooperation with the United Nations in line with our national priorities and needs.

4. We are closely cooperating with Ms. Christine Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, since her appointment in April 2018. We have facilitated her visits to Myanmar for ten times. Her office has been set up and operating well in Nay Pyi Taw.

5. We are also cooperating with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and taking concrete steps to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children over the past eight years. In June last year, Myanmar’s armed forces was **released** from the list of the UN for recruitment and use of children. In 2019, Myanmar set up a National Committee and adopted a national action plan in 2020 to take action against the perpetrators.

6. The Government has signed the Joint Communiqué with the Special Representative of the Secretary-Generalon Sexual Violence in Conflict in December 2018.

7. We also have been working closely with the ASEAN and two UN agencies (UNHCR and UNDP) and other development partners in creating a conducive environment in Rakhine State.

**Accession to International Human Rights Treaties and Implementation**

**Madame President,**

8. In implementing the recommendations received during the second cycle of UPR, Myanmar ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in October 2017 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OPAC) in September 2019. We are now fulfilling the obligations of a state party to the said treaties.

9. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has jointly organized three Awareness Raising Workshops on ICCPR together with the Centre for Civil and Political Rights and more will also be conducted in the future.

10. We look forward to receiving technical assistance from our friends and partners in fulfilling our obligations as a state party, and for preparation of joining remaing treaties (including CAT).

**Humanitarian Assistance**

**Madame President,**

11. In Myanmar, humanitarian assistance has been provided to all vulnerable segments without any discrimination, placing top priority in two needy areas: Rakhine and Chin States. The Government has focused on two viable approaches: to enhance its own delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected people and to seek effective international assistance that shows goodwill towards Myanmar.

12. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 and the intensity of armed clashes in Rakhine State, the Government has scaled up its efforts to enhance the provision of health and humanitarian assistance in close cooperation with ICRC and UN agencies like WFP.

13. Humanitarian access has currently been granted for UN agencies and INGOs to do their project activities in townships, except for some villages under the security conditions. An Action Plan was laid down by the Myanmar Government for smooth process of humanitarian activities operated by ICRC in Rakhine State.

14. In line with the Action Plan between Myanmar and ICRC, ICRC has been implementing COVID-19 related humanitarian activities in nine townships of northern Rakhine State especially in IDP camps, quarantine sites and villages.

15. Besides, the Government has allowed a series of WFP chartered flights connecting Yangon to Kuala Lumpur for humanitarian workers and experts of the UN/ EU/ INGOs/ NGOs and cargo with medical supplies. The Government, with the support of the LIFT Fund, provided 30,000 kyats per person for elders, pregnant women and kids under the age of 2 in Rakhine State without discrimination.

**Madame President,**

16. Myanmar has steadfastly opposed country-specific mandates which run contrary to the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization in addressing human rights issues. The successive Governments have cooperated with the Special Rapporteurs. We accepted the visits of Special Rapporteur Ms. Yanghee Lee for six times from 2014 to 2017. Despite the fullest possible cooperation extended to her, the end-of-mission statement was not in compliance with her code of conduct. The issue was heatedly debated in the Parliament and the people and Government of Myanmar also decided not to cooperate with her as it would not be productive. Although we did not accept the mandate of a Special Rapporteur, Myanmar, as a responsible member of the UN, is ready to cooperate if we receive a balanced and impartial cooperation in turn.

17. I thank you.

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