**Intervention on Business and Human Rights**

**at 37thsession of the UPR Working Group of Myanmar**

**(25 January 2021)**

**Madame President,**

1. I am Aung Moe Chai, Deputy Director General from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER).
2. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Myanmar is committed to implement the UN Guidelines in fostering respect for human rights as well as promoting responsible businesses throughout the country.

**Strengthening responsible investment**

1. We have created a number of instruments, to promote responsible investment and good corporate behaviors, including the adoption of anti-corruption law in 2013. Likewise, the new Myanmar Investment Law and Myanmar Companies Law were enacted in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
2. As a result, considerable improvements have been recorded in a number of indicators. Myanmar has remarkably improved its ranking by 6 places to 165th of the World Bank’s 2020 Ease of doing Business Index.
3. With a view to promoting quality investment and building resilience through responsible business conduct and international labour standards, Myanmar, in close cooperation with OECD, published “the OECD Investment Policy Reviews: Myanmar” in 2014 and 2020 respectively.

**Myanmar’s endeavors on international agreements**

1. Recognizing the role of multilateralism in promotion and protection of human rights in business sector, a number of conventions, such as ILO Minimum Age Convention in 2020 and ICESCR in 2017, have been ratified under the leadership of democratically elected government.
2. Myanmar’s endeavours to build a resilient, sustainable and environmental friendly economic development are evidenced by the ratification of Paris Agreement in 2017. Myanmar is also going to submit its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC, which reflects Myanmar’s aspiration to reduce over 243 million tons of CO2. In addition, Myanmar’s National Adaptation Plan for climate change is projected to be completed by 2024 while setting the targets for the improvement of energy efficiency by 2030.

**Measures to respond challenges**

1. However, like many countries, Myanmar is no exclusion of the devastations and uncertainties caused by the outbreak of COVID-19. We have been putting tremendous efforts to respond and mitigate these affects through the short and medium term recovery plans such as COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). The drafting process of the Myanmar Economic Resilience and Reform Plan (MERRP) is ongoing with the aim to lessen socio-economic impacts aftershocks.

9. We view that majority of human rights violations in business sector occurs due to the lack of knowledge and awareness of human rights. We truly believe that key to achieve responsible business respecting to human rights is promoting human rights education through capacity building and technical assistance. Hence, we would like to seek the international community’s support in strengthening our national capacities to effectively implement human rights obligations.

10. I thank you.

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