**Intervention on Labour Rights and Citizenship at the 37th Session of the**

**UPR Working Group of Myanmar**

**(25 January 2021)**

**Madame President,**

1. I am Nyunt Win, Director General of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population of Myanmar.

2. We have made a number of significant developments in implementation of labour rights. Myanmar had also ratified the ILO’s Forced Labour Convention No. 29, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention No. 87 and Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 respectively

3. One of the major developments is Myanmar’s ratification of the ILO Convention No. 138, Minimum Age on 8 June 2020. Myanmar has declared 14 years old of age for admission to employment or work the minimum age for employment.

4. To fulfill the obligations of the Minimum Age Convention and elimination of the Child Labour Convention, a National Committee on Child Labour Eradication, chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe has been formed through the President’s office Notice No. 23/2018 on 5 February 2018. The National Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour (2019-2023) was adopted in 2019.

5. We also have established the National Complaints Mechanism (NCM) since February 2020 under the Myanmar Decent Work Country Programme- DWCP (2018-2021). The Action Plan for the elimination of forced labour (2019-2021) which includes the four priorities is under implementation.

6. Moreover, the Labour Organization Law 201, is under amendment process in consultation with tripartism at the Technical Working Group on Labour Law Reform (TWG-LLR) in line with the real situations of the country with the technical assistance of the ILO. In addition, we have been settling labour disputes occurring at the workplace of factories and industries in accordance with the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law.

**Madame President,**

7.Allow me to mention salient points regarding the citizenship of Myanmar. The population in the Northern Rakhine State is mixed with those who have been living there for decades and those who have entered illegally after our independence. Thus, we need to undergo verification and screening process for their eligibility for citizenship in accordance with 1982 Citizenship Law.

8. The issuance of National Verification Card (NVC) is the first step for Citizenship verification. NVC holders who met necessary requirements in accordance with existing law will become Myanmar citizens. Everyone residing in Myanmar has to go through the same process of verification.

9. NVCs are thus issued not only to members of the Muslim community in Rakhine State but also to all people throughout the country who do not have any valid document so that they can join the process of citizenship scrutiny. Having NVC is an evidence of being a resident of Myanmar. Regardless of any status, people can enjoy their basic rights of education, healthcare and other social services.

10. The Government has been systematically issuing NVCs to those eligible without discrimination of their ethnicity or religious belief based on their residence status within the country. From 1 May 2016 to 11 April 2020, 22,378 persons have been issued NVCs in Rakhine State, wherein, 310 persons are granted citizenship and 2,714 persons as naturalized citizens. Among all States and Regions, Rakhine is recorded as the second State in which the highest number of NVCs has been issued until 11 May 2020. There is a significant progress made in issuance of birth certificates and citizenship cards to the applicants.

11. Myanmar authorities concerned are now speeding up the process of citizenship application. We have been implementing the recommendations of the report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Kofi Annan at the fullest extent possible in line with situation on the ground to bring long-term peace, harmony and development to the people of Rakhine.

12. I thank you.

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