

Statement
By
His Excellency Mr. Thein Swe
Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
at the Plenary Session of 107th ILC
Geneva, 5 June 2018

Madame President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this august Assembly. On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for being elected as the President of this Conference. I am confident that under your able guidance, wisdom and leadership, the Conference will achieve a great success.

2. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been exerting relentless efforts for almost a century to ensure workers all over the world enjoy their rights fully in accordance with the objectives set up since its establishment. During this time span, it has been able to lay down effective labour standards in compliance with global socio-economic conditions. I am also very pleased to observe the significant progress in promotion and protection of the rights of the workers.

Madame President,

3. Since Decent Work and Gender Equality at Work are fundamental platforms for advancing social justice as envisaged in SDG Goal 5 and 8. The ILO Director-General's comprehensive report to the Conference entitled "The Women at Work Initiative: The push for equality" is not only timely with the current situations but also highlights the future works to be undertaken. Thus, it constitutes an urgent call to place necessary emphasis on gender equality. I am glad to note that consultation on gender equality is initiated with a view to standardizing it globally.

4. Many Member States including Myanmar are still facing challenges, particularly in putting labour standards relating to gender equality at workplace into good practice and its full realization. As political, traditions, economic and social backgrounds among the States are differ, the time to achieve their respective goals in the areas of promoting labour rights including gender equality would vary. However, I am confident that with our political will, we would be able to accelerate our actions for gender equality.

Madame President,

5. Myanmar has been promoting gender equality norms in letter and spirit as prescribed in her Constitution. The laws enacted in the past have less provision reflecting gender equality. However, the new laws drafted in these days will be covering gender mainstreaming. Likewise, gender aspect will be included in revising the existing laws to bring them into line with the global trends.

6. In addition, Myanmar strongly rejects any forms of sexual violence and harassment, and discrimination at workplace. Myanmar has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women-CEDAW, and we have been implementing the provisions of the Convention by adopting necessary domestic policies. The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022) and Thematic report on Gender Dimensions are the examples of promoting gender equality in Myanmar. At the same time, more efforts are being made. The Law on Protection and Prevention against Violation of Women is now being drafted.

Mr. President,

7. The labour law reform is an on-going process in Myanmar with the assistance of social partners and development partners including ILO. We were able to hold a total of ten rounds of national tripartite dialogue forums. The recent forums have led to the endorsement of Myanmar Decent Country Work Programme-2018-21 and 5-point Roadmap for better labour sector development. I sincerely hope that Myanmar would be able to sign the Decent Country Work Programme with ILO in near future.

Madame President,

8. Naturally, challenges continue to remain in promoting and protecting of labour rights for Myanmar. However, they are not insurmountable. The Government of Myanmar, working on newly developed culture of tripartite dialogue, will certainly be able to reach desired goals in future, with the technical assistance and support of ILO and international partners.

I thank you Madame President.
