

**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 108th ILC
Geneva, 17 June 2019**

Mr. President,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great honour for me to address the Conference at this historic occasion of the centenary of the ILO. I congratulate you all for the success that the ILO achieved last 100 years.
- (On behalf of Myanmar Delegation, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as the President of the 108th International Labour Conference. I would also like to tribute to other members of the bureau for their election.)

Mr. President,

- The ILO, with the existence of one century, is a unique tripartite organization maintaining the characteristics of systematic functioning in exemplary manner, universal overarching ability and multi-sectoral involvement in order to bring about the sustainable development. Its mission and mandate in promoting social justice and decent work for all remain relevant and necessary.
- In this regard, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the founders of the ILO, former Directors-General, the incumbent Director-General Mr. Guy Ryder and the representatives of Government, employers and workers for their respective congruent roles in the related areas.
- We would like to express our appreciation to the Global Commission of ILO for its hard and excellent work which resulted in the human-centered report namely “Work for a Brighter Future”. It is not only a milestone but also a centenary report calling for everyone to take responsibility for building a just and equitable future of work.

Mr. President,

- Myanmar set priorities to further improve the socio-economic life of its people including workers and to further enhance culture of tripartite dialogue to be in line with the goal of Future of Work.
- The Myanmar Labour Market Governance Programme is being developed with an aim to have all laws and by-laws are in line with relevant international labour standards, to have a social dialogue principles-based cohesive labour law framework, to further promote compliance with the laws, to further strengthen capacity of and promote confidence among the tripartite constituents enabling them to meaningful participation in social dialogues on labour law reforms and sound industrial relations.
- We have also been enforcing the existing laws for ensuring the protection of the labour rights (including working hours, leave, wages, occupational safety and health, freedom of association). Minimum wage for workers was successfully set to rise second time through social dialogue in order to have good industrial relations, to increase workers' competitiveness and to fulfill the needs of workers and their families. We have been implementing the five-year National Action Plan for the Management of International Labour Migration (2018-2022) to improve the governance and administration of the labour migration.
- To promote safe and secure working environment for workers, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Law was enacted in March 2019.

Mr. President,

- We have been upgrading skill of workers through the National Skills Standard Authority and also finalizing Myanmar National Qualification Framework in order to keep abreast with the rapid changes in technology and requirements for jobs and skills.
- The Memorandum of Understanding on Myanmar Decent Work Country Programme (2018-2021) was signed among the representatives of Government, employer, worker and the ILO in September 2018. By doing this, we have expressed our readiness to address decent work challenges in

the country. Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank the ILO for its cooperation and assistance.

- (The Programme was developed in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – MSDP which is in accord with SDGs, the ASEAN Economic Community and the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation (GMS EC).)

Mr. President,

- To signal our further commitment for effective abolition of child labour, I am pleased to announce that Myanmar is in a process of ratifying the ILO's Minimum Age Convention (C-138), one of the ILO core conventions.
- In conclusion, Mr. President, the current democratically elected civilian government has been transforming the country from the authoritarian to a democratic federal union. Myanmar as a nascent democracy is facing many daunting challenges. However, we are resolute to overcome such challenges including our efforts for elimination of forced labour.
- Myanmar, as a member of ILO, will continue its cooperation with the ILO and other members to the work of the ILO and for the welfare of our global workforce. In this context, I would like to request the members of ILO in particular the developed countries and international organizations including ILO to extend not only technical assistance but also financial assistance to Myanmar so that we would be able to effectively implement the Future of Work.
- I thank you, Mr. President.