



MYANMAR

Check against delivery

**Statement of H.E. Dr. Myo Thein Gyi,
Union Minister for Education,
Head of Delegation of
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference
(November, 2017)**

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your unanimous election as the President of the UNESCO General Conference.

Mr. President,

To fully realise the benefits of a quality education system, the Ministry of Education has been implementing a National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) (2016-21), which is now gradually gaining momentum.

To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), the Ministry of Education has set the targets namely 'no one is left behind' and 'no dropouts' with 'no discrimination'. So our Ministry has strived for all primary school students to complete primary education and to pursue to secondary schools, through the free primary and secondary education system. As a result, a total of 1.07 million children enrolled at Kindergarten of public schools, forming 96.43% of net enrolment rate in 2016-2017 Academic Year and 1.25 million six-year old children at Grade 1 in 2017-2018 Academic Year.

The number of basic education students has also increased year by year, catering over 8.1 million in the public schools in 2011-2012 Academic Year and over 9.1 million in 2017-2018.

The Ministry of Education ensures inclusiveness and equity by providing a special education programme for those students with visual impairment and hearing impairment, and a remedial education for those who are either weak in learning or who has low school attendance. In addition, the number of the local languages that were taught at their respective schools has increased from 32 languages in 2016-2017 Academic Year to 49 languages in 2017-2018 Academic Year.

Our Ministry also provides Alternative Education by opening a new department, namely the 'Department of Alternative Education' and encouraging non-formal education and lifelong learning.

Our Ministry has started to transform the present 5-4-2 system of the basic education to a new KG +12 system since 2016-2017 Academic Year. The new curricula for Kindergarten and Grade 1 have been introduced and those for the other grades will be completed in 2021.

Mr. President,

The Ministry of Education is committed to reforming Myanmar's higher education institutions to enable greater knowledge acquisition and enhancement and develop research works. Our Ministry has also aimed at developing English language proficiency and ICT skills of both teachers and students and promoting Deep Learning with a strong focus on research and innovation to meet the country's social and economic development needs.

Joint research programmes, student exchange programmes, faculty exchange programmes with international institutions have been encouraged through MOUs.

Quality Assurance has been strengthened through National Qualification Framework at the universities, all of which have academic autonomy. It has also reinforced the quality, relevance and governance of distance education under the SPHEIR Programme.

Mr. President,

The State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has encouraged uplifting the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to the First Class Education in Myanmar. So the Ministry of Education constantly expands and strengthens the quality of technical and vocational education and training in the interests of sustained national economic development.

The Ministry of Education recognizes teachers' vital role in developing the quality of students. So 2-year teacher education colleges will be upgraded to 4-year education degree colleges and more teacher training programmes have been offered.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to express our appreciation to UNESCO for its supports to the development of education, the inscription of Cultural Sites and Natural Sites on the World Heritage List as well as the access to and use of new information and communication technologies and transport.

In conclusion, Myanmar has been trying to achieve the SDG 4, its targets and indicators. To achieve them, the Ministry of Education has been launching the National Education Strategic Plan (2016-21) with the focus on the principles of education: education must be inclusive, equitable and efficient for lifelong learning. Our Ministry believes that this plan will help achieve the SDG4 through the roadmap of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, in mutual collaboration with international community.

Thank you very much.

XXXXXXXXXX