



MYANMAR

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Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the General Debate of the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(New York, 15 June 2023)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to congratulate you for your well-deserved election as the Chair. We also extend our appreciation to you and the bureau members for convening this important COSP16 Session to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We welcome this year's theme and sub-themes of the Conference and are happy to learn the convening of almost 90 side-events under wide range of topics during this three-day Session.

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar became a state party of CRPD in December 2011. Subsequently, the National Social Protection Strategic Plan was adopted in 2014; the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Disabilities was enacted in 2015; and the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in 2017. In 2019, Myanmar as a state party submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The report revealed that Myanmar has devoted to overcoming all previous stagnant situations of persons with disabilities and bring about tangible results for the promotion and protection of rights of PWDs. It was clear that equality, non-discrimination, and socio-economic inclusion of PWDs are the entrenched core priorities of Myanmar. Meanwhile,

the vital nexus between disability and education, poverty, and other essential elements was also under scored. On this basis, the elected civilian government had incorporated disability into the development agenda.

COVID 19 pandemic created huge challenges for vulnerable groups of people including PWDs. These challenges have been exacerbated by the illegal military coup in February 2021 and the military's atrocities. It resulted in increase of number of people with disabilities.

Such atrocities do not discriminate people living in Myanmar, be they able or disable, men or women, girls or boys, young or old. The vulnerable groups of people are heavily in need of multi-dimensional support. They are particularly at risk and require immediate and substantial access to life-saving assistance, health care, food security and other humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that timely and decisive action of the international community is immediately needed to address the issue of Myanmar, and the continued concrete support of the international community is urgently much required to bring Myanmar return to democracy and establish a Federal Democratic Union in line with aspiration of Myanmar people.

Only by doing so, Myanmar will be able to promote and protect the rights of not only persons with disabilities, but also everyone in Myanmar who have been suffering under the illegal coup and longing for democracy, peace and justice in Myanmar.

I thank you.
