

**Statement Delivered by H.E Dr. Win Myat Aye,  
Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,  
at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of  
the High Commissioner's Programme**

**(5-9 October, 2020)**

**Chairperson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,  
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

May I send my warmest greetings to all of you.

**Chairperson,**

- Firstly, let me share the interventions of the Government of Myanmar on protection of vulnerable people during COVID-19 pandemic. The Government is making sure that no one is left behind especially the vulnerable groups of people, in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19, in close cooperation with the related United Nations Agencies and international organizations, civil society and non-government organizations.
- The government has allocated 2.1 Billion MMK for the Action Plan for the Control of COVID-19 Outbreak in the IDP camps and

temporary shelters in March, 2020 soon after the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic.

- This action plan is prepared reflecting the international humanitarian and protection standards as well as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Interim Guidance on COVID-19.
- As the number of local transmission cases has rapidly risen starting from Sittwe, capital of the Rakhine State in mid-August, the government further step up prevention, control and response measures. The government has made an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food assistance at the quarantine facilities in 8 townships in Rakhine.
- In Rakhine State, the armed clashes between Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army (AA) have hindered many of the government's efforts to improve conditions in the area. Nevertheless, the government is in continuous coordination with the UN agencies, the UEHRD<sup>1</sup>, the Red Cross Movement<sup>2</sup> and international partners to make sure that the necessary humanitarian assistance are not interrupted even though the COVID-19 prevention, control and containment measures are taking place.
- Psychosocial Support Services are provided to strengthen mental health and raise awareness to avoid discrimination or stigmatization on suspected or confirmed cases by others.

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<sup>1</sup> The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD)

<sup>2</sup> Red Cross Movement is comprised of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

- We also maintain the operation of 24 hour help line for providing services and referral pathways for victims of gender based violence.
- During this crisis, we believe that social protection is a powerful tool in reducing the impacts of COVID-19 on the vulnerable populations.
- Therefore, in connection with the Myanmar COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, social protection assistance are provided to families in the IDP camps and temporary shelters, pregnant women, elderly people and the persons with disabilities.

**Chairperson,**

- Despite the Covid-19 situation, the camp closure process is ongoing in accordance with the National Strategy on the Resettlement of IDPs and the Closure of the IDP Camps. The government is in continuous consultation with the international experts for the formulation of localized action plans. The government is working intensively to have ongoing consultations with the IDPs, host communities, local administrations for resettlement and camp closures throughout the COVID-19 period.
- One of the critical things to end conflicts and displacement in Myanmar is the Peace Process.

Despite the COVID-19 challenges, the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong was successfully concluded on August 21, 2020.

Among 20 agreements made in the conference, five basic federal principles were agreed for the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union. Additionally, step by step implementation guidelines for the peace process in the post 2020 were also agreed. As Myanmar will have the General Election in November, 2020; the agreements made in the conference are the significant progress for durable peace in the post-election period.

**Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- Many challenges remain in Myanmar. However Myanmar has never lost its focus to continue the democratic transition, the national reconciliation, finding solutions for durable peace, ending conflicts and displacement, ensuring human rights, improving the social and economic conditions of all the people and sustainable development of the country.
- Thank you.

