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**Statement delivered by Mrs. Ei Ei Tin,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of
Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations at Geneva
at the First Global Refugee Forum
(Geneva, 18 December 2019)**

Mr. High Commissioner,
Excellencies and
Distinguished delegates,

Mr. High Commissioner,

Myanmar shares the global concern over the increasing number of refugees around the world.

Since voluntary repatriation is one of the effective and durable solutions for refugee issue, we have been working relentlessly for the speedy repatriation of displaced persons by cooperating with neighbouring countries and all stakeholders. As a result of close cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, over a thousand of Myanmar displaced persons living in the camps in Thailand have been successfully repatriated to Myanmar. The distinguished delegate of Thailand has also mentioned it in his statement this morning.

With regard to the displaced persons from Rakhine State, we have been working tirelessly for their speedy repatriation. We are ready to receive verified returnees in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner in accordance with the bilateral arrangements. As of 18 November 2019, 95% of the list provided by Bangladesh has already been verified. Myanmar has informed it to Bangladesh side. Bangladesh side should adhere to and sincerely and steadfastly implement the agreed bilateral arrangement for successful repatriation in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner.

Although there are various obstacles including destructive movements, killing and threats by ARSA to hinder repatriation, over 400 people from Cox's Bazar have returned with their own arrangements. Some 400 people of Hindu faith have long expressed their desire to return but they still haven't managed to do so yet.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Despite being a least developed country, Myanmar has been conducting various development projects for the prospective returnees with our own limited resources and from the assistance of some donors and regional partners. Shelters and infrastructures have been constructed for the displaced from Cox Bazar who are yet to return to Myanmar. Moreover, activities for resettlement, rebuilding villages, development and livelihood opportunities as well as health and education facilities are being undertaken for them.

I would like to thank UNDP and UNHCR, ASEAN friends as well as regional partners for creating conducive condition. UNHCR and UNDP are implementing 43 Quick Impact Projects for the ~~the~~^{pro}spective returnees and the success of these Projects encourage to further increase the number of the projects as the security condition allows.

Before ICJ on 11 and 12 December, the State Counsellor and her team provided the detailed and factual account of the issue of Rakhine State and related matters.

Mr. High Commissioner,

In conclusion, we are committed to continue our efforts in creating more conducive condition for all returnees with genuine political will. We are ready to receive the returnees and are confident that, with the concerted efforts of all stakeholders and cooperation of the international community, we can start repatriation process in the near future and practical and sustainable solution can also be achieved.

I thank you, Mr. High Commissioner.