

**Statement by Myanmar Delegation at the
12th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues**

Item 4: Effective practices for education in, and the teaching of, minority languages

(29-11-2019)

Madame Chair

- It is undeniable that Education is basic and vital part of our human society. It plays a central role in reducing poverty and inequality, strengthening our communities, fostering lasting peace, expanding economic development and building national unity.
- When it comes to Minority issues, every country has different national circumstances that there cannot be one size fit all recommendations or solutions.
- Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi religious country, with over 130 ethnic nationalities each with their own unique language, characteristics and backgrounds.
- The Constitution guarantees that the Union shall assist to develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of the National races, to promote solidarity, to promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, so forth, of less-developed National races.

- The Ministry of Ethnic affairs was established in March 2016, after the adoption of the Ethnic Rights Protection Law in 2015. The legislative process for the accompanying bylaw of Ethnic Rights Protection Law began in 2017 and was ratified in August this year.
- The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Education appointed 190 Ethnic Language teachers and 4971 teaching assistance in 2017-2018 Fiscal year, and 175 Ethnic Language teachers and 6935 teaching assistants in 2018-2019 Fiscal year.
- With the collaboration of UNICEF, Myanmar is planning to publish 25 Ethnic local curriculums written by Ethnic scholars from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon State.
- 64 ethnic languages are taught in government school in Regions and States.
- The Ethnic Right Protection Law was translated into 44 Ethnic Languages with the assistance from Ethnic Literature and Culture Committee.
- Moreover, 1319 schools in 2018 and 1160 school in 2019 opened summer Ethnic Language Training courses.
- Bilingual story books of 66 ethnic languages and Myanmar Language for preschool and kindergarten were also distributed.

- During September this year, a workshop on Myanmar Ethnic Rights Strategy and discussion of future work plans was held where the first draft of "Myanmar ethnic rights strategy" was produced based on the discussions by representatives of relevant government Ministries, Regional/States, Self-administered Regions/Areas, Parliament, and NGOs.
- We hope that the implementation of the strategic plan will reduce uneven development rates between different ethnic groups, end the armed conflict, support national peace and establish a Democratic Federal Union.
