

## Statement for Effective practices for education in, and the teaching of, minority languages

Madam Chair,

My name is Tin mar oo and I am a rohingya woman from Myanmar.

Madam Chair, Language is an essential of culture and identity for minorities in Myanmar but languages of ethnic minorities have not been fully integrated in the formal education. Language has been a barrier for ethnic minorities of Myanmar to access the formal education. I would like to acknowledge that the Government of Myanmar committed to preserve the ethnic languages of minorities.

It is important to mention that lack of security due to the civil war, lack of resources towards the education system, poor accessibility and discrimination and racism against minorities contribute towards the low literacy rate of ethnic minorities. Teachers are reluctant to serve in the ethnic areas due to the lack of security. According to the Myanmar National Census 2014, the districts which has never school attended rates of children (more than 60%) are from Shan state, Kayin state and Mon state.

The religious institutions do provide education to children of ethnic minorities in their languages but the quality of education is very low. It is important to provide the primary education in the ethnic minorities languages.

On the other hand, ethnic minorities like Rohingya are facing difficulty in learning the official Burmese Language due to the lack of Burmese teachers in their regions. Non-Burmese speaking minorities face difficulty to access the health, social and legal services due to the language barrier.

For these reasons, I would like to make four recommendations,

1. Myanmar government should provide adequate resources to schools in ethnic minority areas to provide education in both, official as well as minority language.
2. Myanmar government should support religious institution in ethnic minority areas to be able to provide quality education.
3. Myanmar government should use incentives for the ethnic and Burman teachers who are willing to work in the hard-to-reach areas of the ethnic minorities and guarantee the safety environment for education.
4. Most importantly, Myanmar government should put more effort to stop the civil wars and should make sure to prevent the discrimination and racism against minorities in the education system.

## Statement for language, education and the empowerment of minority women and girls

Madam Chair, I am Tin Mar Oo from Myanmar and I would like to represent the Rohingya minority.

Madam Chair, the right to education is core to the very idea of human rights. Education is not only fundamental rights of human but also a mean to the full and effective realization of other human rights. Education is also the main tool for the women and girl empowerment.

According to the Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015- 2016, the literacy rate of female population in ethnic minorities areas is less than half of the majority Burman areas. Especially female literacy rate of ethnic Rakhine state is only 2.8 which is the second lowest and the ethnic chin state has the lowest female literacy rate which is 1.5. Civil war and lack of security in the minorities areas are the main reasons for low literacy rate of minority women.

Moreover, among the minorities like Rohingya, parents are more willing to support the sons for higher education than the daughters. Ethnic women who couldn't join the formal education are unable to use official Burmese language and it also hinder them to engage the further education and economic development.

Dear Madam Chair, can you imagine how difficult the lives of ethnic minority women of Myanmar?

It is very important to have equal access to education for both men and women in ethnic areas of Myanmar. Women education is fundamental to reduce poverty and development in the ethnic regions. For this reason, I would like to make the following recommendation to t Myanmar government.

1. Myanmar government should put more effort to stop the civil wars and to build peace in the ethnic minorities areas so as to make sure the safety environment for education.
2. Myanmar government should provide the education in both minority languages and official language in ethnic areas.
3. Myanmar government should support the gender equality and women empowerment programs and also assign more funding on the education and gender programs in ethnic areas.