

**Statement of H. E. Dr. Khin San Yee, Union Minister for Education,
Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference
November, 2015**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Myanmar Delegation I would like to congratulate Mr/Madame President for your election as chair of the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. With your capable leadership and guidance, we firmly believe the General Conference will yield many fruitful insights and reach a successful conclusion.

Mr. President

Since March 2011, the present government has initiated Myanmar's reform based on promoting democratic governance, people-centered development and established a stable basis for peace and continued progress.

These reforms have offered the people of Myanmar better, safer and more productive lives and represent an opportunity for the country to resume its place as one of the most dynamic economies in Asia. As a result, the estimated growth rate of Myanmar's GDP has seen a sharp increase to almost 8% per year, coupled with active social-sector development reform projects to address poverty reduction and social welfare for improved livelihoods.

UNESCO, along with other development partners, has actively supported Myanmar's reforms in this historic transition.

Over the past three years the education sector has embarked on a promising reform agenda marked by significant increases in education spending, and the first Comprehensive Education Sector Review in over twenty years – including the development of a costed National Education Sector Plan.

In line with the global post-2015 education agenda, the Ministry of Education remains committed to improving access for all to quality learning opportunities. In partnership with UNESCO, the Ministry of Education is implementing projects on supporting and developing national education plans, improving quality of teacher's training, skills development for youth, ICT for education, non-formal education, higher education reform and several other initiatives.

Along with Education, Myanmar has achieved substantial gains in culture preservation and environmental conservation, which is at the heart of sustainable development policy of Myanmar. Myanmar enlisted the Pyu Ancient Cities as its first World Heritage Site last year, and added for

the first time, 7 natural heritage sites to the 14 tentative sites listed from Myanmar. It has initiated the nomination process of Bagan and the Northern Mountain Forest Corridor. This year Myanmar inscribed Inlay Lake as the first biosphere reserve in Myanmar under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

UNESCO and the Ministry of Information and media stakeholders are closely working on promoting freedom of expression and strengthening the media development sector. For the past four years consecutively, Myanmar has been commemorating the World Press Freedom Day with support from UNESCO, and been conducting a series of national dialogues for the promotion of a free, fair, transparent and vibrant media. UNESCO is supporting Myanmar in media legislation, safety of journalists, capacity building of journalists, and increasing access to information for marginalized for better livelihoods.

In a short-span, Myanmar has made great leaps across all sectors, but there are many challenges which Myanmar is actively addressing.

For delivery of quality education, more resources will be allocated, and sound national strategic plans will be implemented, with a focus on human resources development through an inclusive approach.

As Myanmar is going-through rapid economic growth and infrastructure projects, cultural preservation and environmental conservation is being given a top-priority with full participation of local communities and stakeholders as key players in this process.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank UNESCO office in Yangon for its proactive and consistent support to Myanmar's reform process in all sphere of UNESCO's broad mandate. We look forward to continue our close collaboration with UNESCO to jointly address challenges for the betterment of the lives of the people of Myanmar.

Thank You.
