

**Right of Reply by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Zeya, Ambassador and Permanent
Delegate of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to UNESCO
Plenary Session, 204th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board
10 April 2018**

Mr. Chair,
Madame Director-General,
Madame President of the General Conference,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I have the honour to express my sincere congratulations and fullest support to Mr. Chair of the Executive Board and Madame Director-General of the UNESCO.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to state that I fully concur with Madame Director-General's yesterday speech in which she mentioned that the credibility of UNESCO has been weakened in recent years while we are facing financial constraints because of overdue arrears and political diversion among some member states.

UNESCO is not a political organization. The founding purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture. Every Member State of UNESCO should refrain from mingling political matters with education, science and culture that UNESCO has focused on. It is the time for action for all member states to push forward the organization with collective strength to overcome its challenges for the sake of the organization, and in the interests of all member states.

However, it is my deep regret to note that the representative of Bangladesh delegation misused the opportunity of the member of the Executive Board by misinforming the Plenary about the reparation of the displaced people of Rakhine State. Myanmar is working closely with Bangladesh for the quick reparation of the displaced people of Rakhine State with bilateral agreements. Since 23 January 2018, Myanmar has been ready to receive the verified

returnees. It is the day the two sides have agreed to start the reparation process in accordance with 'the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons'.

Since it joined UNESCO on 27 June 1949, Myanmar has always been as a responsible member state of the organization. We will continue to adhere to its founding principles and maintain the good tradition of the organization.

Thank you, Mt. Chair.
