

**Statement by Myanmar Delegation**  
**During Panel Discussion on Item 5: Minority youth: agents of change for**  
**peace and stability**  
**at United Nations Forum on Minority Issues**  
**Geneva, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

Mr. President,

- My delegation wishes to express our appreciation to all the panelists for sharing their experiences and knowledge on the issues of youth's involvement in peace building and conflict prevention.
- As Myanmar has suffered 60 years of civil armed conflict, we pay great attention to internal peace and improvement of lives of the people as our national priorities. We are of the view that the ownership of the peace process applies to everyone and everyone has to contribute their efforts to enjoy its benefit.
- We realize that youths are the hope of the future of Myanmar and with their enthusiasm, empowerment and energetic spirit, our goals to peace and national reconciliation can be attained smoothly.
- With this conviction, Myanmar has been developing a series of initiatives and creating spaces to encourage the participation of youths from different ethnic groups in political dialogues. As part of the national peace process, the Peace Talk with youths was held in January 2017 and youths representing states/regions were able to exchange their views on peace building. In addition, the Government is also encouraging active participation of youths in the activities of the Union Enterprises for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development. It is delighted to note that the second preliminary on-job training for voluntary youths was held and the provision of humanitarian aid in Rakhine will be performed by youths.
- As I speak, All-Round Development Event for Youth is currently taking place in Myanmar from 1 to 3 December with the aim of exchanging and sharing knowledge, skills, ethics and values of Myanmar youths and for the future Myanmar society to be built by them.
- In conclusion, I hope that today's discussion would provide us with practical and meaningful approaches to promote the role minority youth in peace, reconciliation and mediation process.
- I thank you, Mr. President.