

**Speech of Myanmar Representative to 6th Special Session of
UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Dear Madam Director-General,

Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Myanmar!

It is nice to meet all of you here online. I think this is our second virtual meeting after a retreat in Paris at the end of February 2020. And it is great to see all of you again.

First of all, I would like to commend the Group of Friends on Solidarity and Inclusion with Global Citizenship Education for their successful launch on 26th May 2020. Plans are underway for Myanmar to take active part in the activities of this group. Myanmar has been implementing measures of raising awareness to counter all forms of hate speech, discrimination and stigmatization. In this respect, the Office of the President of Myanmar issued the directive on measures against hate speech and prevention of incitement to hatred and violence on 20th April 2020.

Concerning with COVID-19 occurrence in Myanmar, there have been 236 lab confirmed cases so far, and 148 of them have already recovered. There are six deaths among confirmed cases. Thus, COVID-19 infection in Myanmar is under

very much control. Still there are impacts on economic and social sectors, like other countries, to certain extent. At the same time, Myanmar is receiving international assistance, financially and technically, to fight against COVID-19. Myanmar has also received loans from international financial sources.

Myanmar released COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan on 27th April 2020. The Plan includes seven goals covering banking sector, easing the impact on labourers and workers, easing the impact on households and promoting innovative products and platforms. Myanmar is also paying special attention to strengthen its healthcare system. Although schools and universities have been closed up till now, plans to reopen them are underway. Teachers' trainings are being conducted online while a number of universities are setting up their virtual classrooms.

We are also looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector to respond accordingly. Myanmar has taken note of responses of UNESCO against COVID-19 in all sectors. The Secretary-General of Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO has participated in a number of online meetings that shared information of UNESCO activities by relevant bodies.

Myanmar thanks UNESCO and all global partners for their cooperation in its fight against COVID-19. Myanmar will continue its full commitment in working together with UNESCO and UN Bodies and with other nations for the betterment of the world.

Thank you.

Dr. Kyi Shwin, Myanmar Representative to UNESCO Executive Board