

**Statement by H.E.Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports of
Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**(delivered by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative /
Ambassador of Myanmar, on behalf of the Union Minister)**

at

Virtual 73rd Session of the World Health Assembly (18 May 2020)

- Honorable Chair, Excellencies, my fellow health ministers, WHO Director General and Regional Directors.
- This is the time when all health ministers are busy tackling the COVID-19.
- Myanmar is fighting this scourge, after adapting some of the global strategies and interventions to suit our country scenario giving the fact that Myanmar is a developing country but with a relatively strong health system.
- From the very beginning starting 5 January 2020, we have issued guidelines, standard operating procedure, dos and don'ts to prevent and control COVID-19.
- We take note of the fact that the virus is new and we are not fully aware of the 'behavior of the virus' so does the 'natural history of COVID-19.
- We therefore need very clear cut scientific evidences from WHO, and other renowned research and health institutions like CDC Atlanta and WHO Collaborating Centers in a real time basis.
- Sharing of experiences among neighboring countries is one of the predictors for successfully controlling and containing the pandemic.
- We should give special attention on the importance of psychological impact of COVID-19 on the population, let along the economic impact.

- At the same time, we should take advantage of conducting several relevant researches for helping us in managing and containing future pandemic.
- Myanmar experience is that as the pandemic is progressing, it is clear that without proactive involvement and synchronized collaboration and coordination of the population, we will not be successful in containing the pandemic.
- Under the able leadership of our State Counsellor H.E Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is the chair of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, I should say, we can keep the situation under control at this point in time.
- In managing this pandemic of such magnitude, we should be swift in action as the interventions are time sensitive or time-bound.
- Having said that, my delegation would like to reiterate our support of the "One-China policy" in line with UNGA resolution 2758 (1971).
- We are of the view that any arrangement allowing Taiwan's participation in WHA should be guided by the "One-China policy".
- Thank you.