

CSO Statement for 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 and 28 January 2014

Honorable Minister, Development Partners, and Distinguished Guest,

WE would like to thank the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the opportunity to participate in this Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum. We are happy to know that 15 of CSO organizations were invited to attend this forum this year. We value of government recognition for important of our role in country transition.

We also appreciated to open "Public Consultation process for the association registration Law "process in last year. CSOs have been able to support changing the existing association law with mandatory requirement to register to association registration law with only volunteer requirement through public consultation process with Parliamentarian. It is significant example of democratic legal reform. Currently this draft bill was submitted in Pyi Thu Hultaw on 24 January and we are hoping that it will be a very positive outcome for CSOs. If this law is passed, it would be the best law for CSO in this region which provides freedom of association. We are also hoping that government will enforce this association registration law after it is approved. This can be a precedent for future for future legal reform process.

We, CSO will have more enabling legal environment to contribute country development process. To ensure growth, we would like to emphasis four points,

- Legal and Policy reform which can ensure protection of Human Rights when FDI is increasing and more trade agreement are signed in Myanmar. (access to affordable medicine and quality health services, labour rights, land rights, gender equity, social protection ect)
- More inclusive and diverse and meaningful participation of CSO in the implementation of the Frame work for Economic and Social Reform (FESR). (We appreciated that there is CSO representatives in FESR but we need to improve meaningful representation of CSO in FESR. It should not be a token representation)
- Link with Macro level FESR plan to Micro plan. We have significant changes at the policy level but we need to bring this impact of change to community level.
- Framing policies and formulating programs should reflect the real needs and problems of the people of Myanmar from both Rural and Urban, not just listening to the voices of the people but through probing questions and analyzing the root causes of the issues, problems and the needs, then only the remedy measures will be effective, efficient and sustainable.
- Inclusiveness of CSO involvement in decentralization process and creating enabling environment for constructive dialogue among CSO, political representatives and local government..

We will continue our sincere hard work to development of Myanmar at the micro level, in this transition to ensure our work which benefit people on ground. As CSO, we would like to build strong and effective relationship with government to work together as partners with mutual understanding and trust in development initiative in the country. We hope, we will be one of the countries where government, CSO and private sector are effectively working together and served as the model for this region.