

**Opening Remarks by Honorable U Maung Maung Swe
Chairman of the Population and Social Development
Committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw,
at the Seminar on Social Protection for Members of
Hluttaw,**

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 .11 .2014,

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Building No.20

Dear Mr. Konstantin Barwaldt, FES Country Director,

Dr. Michael Cichon, President of the International Council of Social Welfare,

Ms. Lou Tessier, Social Protection Coordinator at the ILO Liaison Office in Myanmar,

Members of Hluttaws,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It is my great pleasure to be at the opening ceremony of the seminar on “Social Protection for Members of Hluttaw” jointly organized by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Friedrich- Ebert Stiftung (FES) and ILO Liaison Office in Myanmar.

On behalf of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw and on my own behalf, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the FES for the continued cooperation with the Hluttaws in the process of Democracy Promotion.

As you all are aware, the Hluttaws since its inception has performed legislative duties actively and altogether (124) laws have been enacted in accordance with the political, economic and social reforms of the country.

The Social Protection is one of the important and priority matters to be addressed for the development of the country.

Social Protection, as defined by the United Nations Research Institute For Social Development, is concerned with preventing, managing, and overcoming situations that adversely affect people's well-being.

Social Protection consists of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age.

According to the ILO World Social Protection Report 2014/2015, more than 70 per cent of the world population is not adequately covered by social protection.

In Myanmar, the government is in the process of designing a more comprehensive and inclusion social protection system.

Based on the social security law from 2012 with the support of international development partners such as ILO^{WHO, PAO, UNHCR, UNO} and FES^{UNICEF}, the government has started to formulate a new National Social Protection Strategy^{(IN HAB) WORLD BANK}.

Accordingly, the Members of the Hluttaw, in the near future, will necessary to discuss and adopt a law on social protection which will be a role model of social protection system in Myanmar.

To take this opportunity, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the organizers, especially to Dr. Michael Cichon, one of the leading international experts on the topic.

The members of Hluttaw and commission will have knowledge on social protection including experiences and models in the region and around the world.

In conclusion, I would like to request the participants to actively involve in this interesting seminar in order to find the best model of social protection in Myanmar. Again to the organizers, my heartfelt thanks for organizing this important workshop
Thank you. on Social protection.

Thank you.