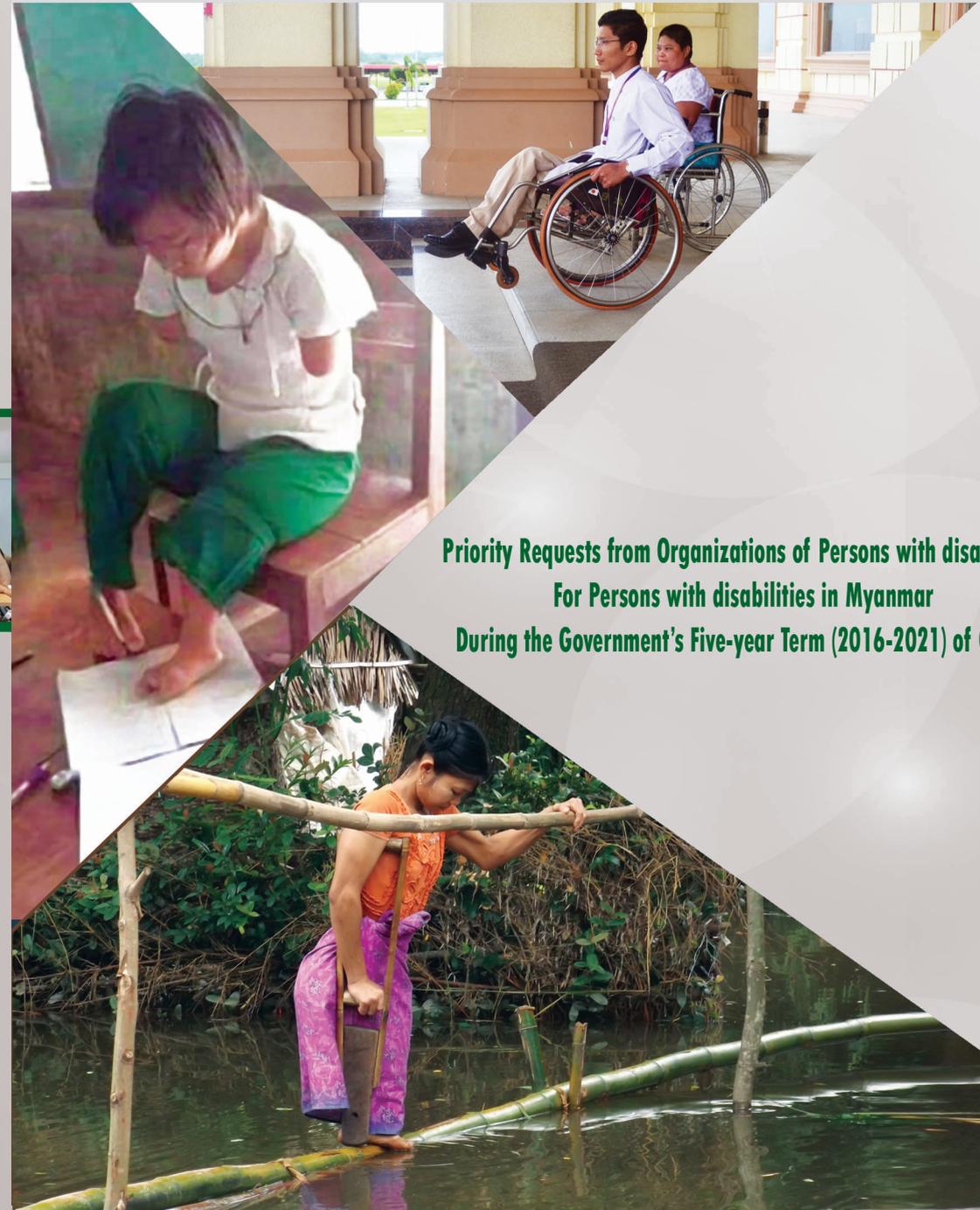




Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)



**Priority Requests from Organizations of Persons with disabilities
For Persons with disabilities in Myanmar
During the Government's Five-year Term (2016-2021) of Office**

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Introduction

Conducted by the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), in collaboration with organizations working for persons with disabilities, including the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities, Myanmar National Association of the Blind, Myanmar Christian Fellowship for the Blind, Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association, Yangon Deaf Association, Mary Chapman School for the Deaf, Shwe Minn Tha Foundation, Association of Myanmar Disabled Women Affairs, Future Stars Self-Advocacy Organization of Intellectual Disabilities, Lin Yaung Chi Disabled People's Development Organization (Shwe Pyi Thar), Disabled People Network (Shwe Pyi Tar), Hmawbi Disabled Persons Association, Smile World Disabled Persons Development Organization and Tetlan Disabled Persons Association (Hlaing Thar Yar), "Priority Requests of Disabled Persons Organizations" have been identified with the following purposes:

- To identify policies and procedures that are priorities for the 2.3 million persons with disabilities in Myanmar during the government's five-year term of office (2016-2020).
- To ensure the rights of persons with disabilities by making recommendations to the Government of Myanmar, the Parliament, the Union Election Commission (UEC), political parties and international and local development organizations who are stakeholders engaged with persons with disabilities.

MILI has been involved in political and electoral processes in Myanmar since 2012. We can build not only on collaborations with the Parliament, the UEC, political parties and select government ministries, but also on opportunities for the futures of persons with disabilities. Harnessing these opportunities, we publish this guide with the intention of encouraging political parties, members of parliament (MPs), and concerned organizations to adopt inclusive policies for persons with disabilities, to initiate discussions on rights of persons with disabilities in parliamentary meetings, and to encourage the government to increase their focus on the affairs of persons with disabilities.

The Situation of People with Disabilities in Myanmar

According to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, 4.6% of the populations (about 2.3 million) are persons with disabilities. A 2011 report from the World Health Organization estimated this number to be 15% of Myanmar’s population, approximately 7 million persons with disabilities. According to Myanmar law, the term “persons with disabilities” refers to people who have one or more long-term physical, sensory, intellectual or psychosocial limitations. The main causes of why persons with disabilities are unable to fully participate in Myanmar society is not because of their physical, sensory or psychosocial condition, but because of the following barriers:

No.	Barrier	Explanation – Example
1	Physical barriers	Buildings, houses, schools, offices, hospitals, parks, cinemas, shopping centers, pavements/ sidewalks traffic lights, crossings/crosswalks, rail stations, buses and transportation systems are not constructed to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

2	Pessimistic attitude as barriers to persons with disabilities	Persons with disabilities are viewed as unable people, unlucky people, and people who are burdensome to their families. There is an expectation that persons with disabilities do not have to be well educated and it is sufficient if they are literate. Businesses worry about being potential negative consequences for hiring persons with disabilities. Many believe that persons with disabilities are looking for trouble if they attempt to participate in politics and public life.
3	Legal and policy barriers	Job applications state that applicants must be "fit and healthy", that driving license applicants must have "full use of their bodies," training/ class participants must not wear glasses, persons determined to be of unsound mind have no right to vote, etc.
4	Communication barriers	No sign language interpretation services are available for persons who are deaf, no accessible printed media (such as braille) for persons with visual disabilities, no screen reader software like JAWS Screen Reader Software for persons with visual disabilities no pictures, symbols, or signage for persons with disabilities including persons with intellectual disability to easily understand.

These barriers are not caused by persons with disabilities, but by other people or organizations in society. These barriers can be removed through education, inclusion, and the provision of reasonable accommodations.

Reasonable accommodations may include materials, services and an environment that allows persons with disabilities to participate and contribute on an equal basis with others. For example, sign language interpreters for persons who are deaf in public forums are a type of reasonable accommodation. Including a well-built ramp for persons in wheelchairs or printing materials in Braille for persons with visual disabilities are also examples of reasonable accommodations.

It is necessary to collaboratively work for persons with disabilities to and to enjoy equal rights as a citizen. The Myanmar government and civil society organizations have a responsibility to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.

International and National Treaties, Legal Frameworks and the Commitments of the Government of Myanmar on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the Union of the Republic of Myanmar in 2011
- The Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community agreed to by the ASEAN countries in 2011 and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011 – 2020)
- Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (2013-2022) approved at the 2012 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting
- 2015 Jakarta Addendum to Address Overlapping Forms of Marginalization
- Myanmar’s Law of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities enacted in 2015

**Ten Prioritized Requests
For Persons with Disabilities in Myanmar
During the Government's Five-year Term of Office**

Political Participation and Public Life

Request (1) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

The voter list registry should include data on the disability type for voters with disabilities and ensure persons with disabilities are able to fully enjoy their equal right to vote.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
<p>To collect and include data on the disability type of persons with disabilities (e.g. physical, visual, hearing, speaking, intellectual, psychosocial, and persons with multiple disabilities), when conducting voter registration.</p> <p>Additionally, consult with organizations of persons with disabilities to determine the relevant categories.</p> <p>(For example: Knowing the status of voters with disabilities around the country will be useful for preparation, planning and</p>	<p>Union Election Commission</p>

<p>constructing accessible polling stations and voting process. However, privacy and protection of the data has to be ensured at all times.</p>	
<p>To amend the election law to allow for all persons with disabilities to vote on an equal basis (To remove all the sections in election law that restrict the voting rights of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities)</p>	<p>Union Parliament (Pyidaugsu Hluttaw)</p>
<p>To ensure persons with disabilities are able to fully participate in electoral processes, mainstream accessibility for persons with disabilities in the existing electoral laws, polling station manuals and in the election strategy.</p>	<p>Union Election Commission</p>
<p>To increase the budget of the UEC in order to support reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and elderly people to enjoy their equal right to vote.</p>	<p>Union Parliament and Union Government</p>

Background Information and the Need for Reform

According to the 2014 Population and Housing Census, there are 2.3 million persons with disabilities, approximately two thirds of these, 1.5 million, are 18 years of age or older and are eligible to vote.

However, throughout Myanmar history, persons with disabilities were not able to equally participate in the electoral process because there were not enough voting accommodations made or accessible polling stations for persons with disabilities to vote. In the previous election, it was found that persons with disabilities could not vote fully because persons with disabilities were not well informed on the election processes, the voter lists did not include the data of persons with disabilities, some persons with disabilities did not have a National Registration Card (NRC) which is required for voter registration, voters' list display places were not accessible for persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities were not able to fully participate in voter education campaigns, most polling stations were not built accessibly for persons with disabilities and many UEC staff were not given disability inclusive voter training.

In article (29) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the Government of Myanmar:

"States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected by;

- a) *Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;*

- b) *Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation;*
- c) *Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice. In addition, encouraging their participation in associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties."*

In Article (6) of the Bali Declaration and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities:

"Ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in political arena including right to vote and be elected on an equal basis with others"

In the article (7)

"Encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development including their participation in political activities by providing them with equal political rights in the election of the leaders and parliamentarians, both at local and national levels;"

Similarly, in Chapter (8) of the Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities enacted in June 2015:

Section (29): Every person with disabilities who is eligible to vote and has the right to vote under the law shall cast a secret vote for each Hluttaw at a constituency in an election.

Section (30): Every citizen with disabilities shall have right to be elected in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution and existing election laws.

Section (31): The Amyotha Committee shall

- d) Coordinate appropriate administration with the Union Election Commission for persons with disabilities to be easy and convenient when voting and to know the voting procedures, facilities and materials and for commission members to be able to perform the tasks in respective constituencies in accord with the by-laws and procedures enacted in this law.*

Advantages to Be Gained

The state, by implementing these measures, shall ensure that two thirds of 2.3 million persons with disabilities, 1.5 million who are eligible to vote, can exercise their right to vote on an equal basis and participate in the nation-building process.

Moreover, the state shall be recognized by the international community as one that respects the rights of persons with disabilities in politics and elections.

ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES

Request (2) of Organization of Persons with Disabilities

To enact an accessibility policy that makes all the public buildings, public spaces and public transportation barrier-free for all, including persons with disabilities, elderly persons and pregnant women.



Request (3) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To build a model barrier-free township which is accessible and convenient for all including persons with disabilities (within Yangon Region)

Implementation and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
To enact a policy for persons with disabilities, elderly persons and pregnant women to easily access public places and transportation services.	Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw or Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (cooperate and consult with organizations of persons with disabilities)
The Union Government should publically release the accessibility policy and encourage respective ministries, development committees, state/region governments, authorities in self-administered areas and private sector entities to implement it.	Especially Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transportation, development committees, all Union Ministries, state/region governments, authorities in self-administered areas, private sector and business owners
Develop accessibility guidelines by consulting with organizations of persons with disabilities so as to effectively implement that policy.	All respective Union Ministries, state/region governments, authorities in self-administered areas, and development committees (to cooperate and consult with organizations of persons with disabilities)
To monitor that policy's implementation and take action when necessary to ensure progress is being made.	Members of Parliament, organizations of persons with disabilities and judicial departments
To build a model township which is convenient and barrier free for the public including persons with disabilities (within Yangon Region).	Ministry of Home Affairs and concerned General Administrative Departments, Yangon City Development Committee, Ministry of

	Construction, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries, Myanmar Engineer Association and the general public in the respective township
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Background Information and the Need for Reform

Governments around the world as well as neighboring Asian countries are enacting policies and implementing civil and public services for persons with disabilities, elderly people and pregnant women.

For example, public toilets, schools, airports, offices, hospitals, parks, cinemas, shopping centers, pavements/sidewalks, traffic lights, road crossings/crosswalks, rail stations, buses, and trains are being built with Universal Design so spaces can be used by everyone with dignity, and many barrier-free cities and accessible public buildings are emerging.

Myanmar ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on December 7, 2011 after making a commitment to grant the rights of persons with disabilities for 2.3 million persons with disabilities in the country. It is encouraged that Myanmar take appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to transportation and public places in Article 9 of the convention.

In addition, it was agreed that Myanmar would take such measures for persons with disabilities in Goal 3 in Asia-Pacific Incheon Strategy committed by the Government of Myanmar in November, 2012.

Moreover, the government passed the Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on June 5, 2015 and it is stated the government should take measures for persons with disabilities in Chapter 7 with respective ministries, development committees and region/state governments to provide accessible public places and services.

At the same time, it will be found that elderly people, pregnant women and the general public will also benefit from these changes supporting persons with disabilities.

Advantages to Be Gained

By implementing these recommendations, Myanmar shall ensure that 5.5 million persons with disabilities, elderly people and pregnant women can enjoy equal rights in dignity, use public places/services with ease and participate in the public sector.

A model barrier-free township should be developed for persons with disabilities in Yangon Region and other townships will be able to model themselves after it.

Myanmar will be recognized by the international community as one that respects the rights of persons with disabilities in politics and elections.

Myanmar will be respected and recognized by the world for implementing accessibility measures for persons with disabilities in the country.



REDUCING POVERTY

Request (4) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To mainstream the affairs of persons with disabilities in poverty reduction strategies and policies of Myanmar.



Request (5) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To increase the budget for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and allocate funds for persons with disabilities in the annual budget development of the government.

Request (6) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To make a social welfare scheme for poor persons with disabilities and persons with severe disabilities.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
To submit a proposal in the parliamentary meeting asking the government to increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and persons with disabilities in the annual budget.	Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw or Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and persons with disabilities in the annual budget.	Budget Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw
To mainstream the affairs of persons with disabilities in the poverty reduction strategies and policies of Myanmar.	The Union Government, State/Region Governments and Self-administered Areas

To make a social welfare scheme for poor persons with disabilities and persons with severe disabilities.	Pyidaugsu Hluttaw, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
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Background Information and the Need for Reform

Myanmar is a developing country with a population of over 51 million people. Although the poverty rate in the country is high, it is one of the Southeast Asian countries which spend lowest percentage of its budget on social welfare. Similarly, Myanmar is on the list of countries with the lowest standard of living and the highest poverty rates.

Most persons with disabilities and their families live in poverty in Myanmar. According to the 2010 community-based rehabilitation guideline, 15% to 20% of the world's populations living in poverty are persons with disabilities. According to the release of state survey (2010) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, it was found that 85% of persons with disabilities are unemployed, 54% of families of persons with disabilities have to live in houses not lasting more than three years, and 62.5% of households of persons with disabilities do not have farmland. Thus, it is clear that disabilities and poverty are interconnected. When people are living with disabilities, this may also result in their living in poverty due lack of equal access to education, no job opportunities and lack of accessible accommodations. Likewise, persons living in poverty may eventually be affected by disabilities as they can get diseases from malnutrition, they are unable to take medication on time and they can lose their limbs from working in risky work environments. As long as such kinds of issues of persons with disabilities are not solved, there will continue to be many persons living in poverty in Myanmar.

Persons with disabilities will never be able to fully enjoy their rights if their needs are ignored. The government should take measures for persons with disabilities into account in whatever it implements. If women's affairs are taken into account, women with disabilities must also be considered. If children's issues are taken into action, children with disabilities must also be considered. If educational affairs/job opportunities are implemented, persons with disabilities must be accounted for. Finally, persons with disabilities should be accounted for in poverty alleviation measures as well as included in budget allocations.

The current budget of Myanmar for social welfare is only 1%, which is much lower than that of neighboring countries.

It is still very difficult for persons with disabilities to make money and survive on their earnings because they lack equal access to job opportunities, don't have opportunities for vocational training, and business opportunities are out of reach due to the weak support of the government and social organizations.

In neighboring countries, monthly welfare benefit plans are implemented in order for persons with disabilities to live in full human dignity. An individual with a disability is provided with between 30,000 and 140,000 yen in Japan, 800 baht in Thailand, and 350 ringgits in Malaysia per month. There are also countries that allocate part of their budget to persons with disabilities and elderly people while they are developing.

Advantages to Be Gained

Myanmar, by implementing these recommendations, shall ensure that 2.3 million of persons with disabilities, and 7 million of their family members can escape from poverty and live with higher standards of living.

Moreover, the alleviation of poverty will help increase Myanmar's wealth. Additionally, the country will be recognized as one which respects persons with disabilities and social welfare.



IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

Request (7) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To establish a National Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Chapter (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law and implement tasks in accordance with the law.

Request (8) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To develop and implement the By-laws of the Disability Rights Law as quickly as possible.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
To establish a National Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Chapter (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law and to effectively implement tasks in accordance with the law.	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
To develop and implement the By-laws of the Disability Rights Law by inviting consultation and cooperation from organizations of persons with disabilities and international expert organizations.	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Background Information and the Need for Reform

Myanmar ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on December 7, 2011 and enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No (30), with the following purposes;

- a) *To care for persons with disabilities in accordance with the State Constitution;*

- b) To more effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;*
- c) To guarantee persons with disabilities are able to equally and fully enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms entitled to every citizen;*
- d) For persons with disabilities to be able to participate in politics, social affairs, education, healthcare services, economic affairs, cultural affairs and the public sector on an equal basis with others;*
- e) To recognize the dignity, capacity and accomplishments of persons with disabilities by the state and citizens;*
- f) To improve the social security of persons with disabilities;*
- g) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities;*
- h) To protect persons with disabilities from being misused and exploited and provide women and children with disabilities with special protections;*
- i) To provide care and services to persons with disabilities without legal guardians.*

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law is comprised of 17 chapters and 94 sections. The law is intended to protect and promote the rights of the 2.3 million persons with disabilities in Myanmar. However, persons with disabilities across the country are not able to fully enjoy these rights, as the statute has not yet been passed. It is necessary to form the Amyotha (National) Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities led by the Vice President under Chapter (3) of the Law and to pass the statute as quickly as possible.

Advantages to Be Gained

The 2.3 million persons with disabilities across the country will be able to fully enjoy rights and responsibilities stated in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Law. Persons with disabilities will be able to live in dignity under the rule of law. Furthermore, the practice of discrimination against persons with disabilities will be legally forbidden through the establishment of the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under **Chapter (3)** of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law.

Furthermore, the Government of Myanmar and its people will be recognized for respecting persons with disabilities and their rights by other countries.

EMPLOYMENT

Request (9) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To determine and implement a quota system for persons with disabilities in the workplace to ensure access for persons with disabilities to employment opportunities.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
To establish the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Chapter (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
To determine a quota for persons with disabilities to ensure access to employment opportunities in	Amyotha Committee of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Labor

collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, organizations of persons with disabilities, and employers	
To implement and monitor progress made on the employment quota for persons with disabilities.	Amyotha Committee of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Judicial Departments

Background Information and the Need for Reform

Persons with disabilities are an integral part of Myanmar society. Many people who are poor or do not have consistent incomes are persons with disabilities. According to the 2010 survey of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, it was found that 85% of persons with disabilities in Myanmar are unemployed. Although persons with disabilities want to work and are capable of working, it is difficult for them to get a job because they lack access to education and vocational training, they face difficulties using public transportation, there are often physical barriers in work places and discrimination from employers or employment policies.

Chapter (10), Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, enacted June 2015

In Section 350, the Amyotha Committee must:

- a) implement and supervise policies and projects for persons with disabilities to be able to work, to create job opportunities, to receive salaries and benefits in accordance with existing laws, to participate in unions, to have access to vocational trainings, to be businesses-owners, to work at government departments and in the private sector, to easily navigate*

workplaces, and to access suitable accommodations in consultation with relevant ministries;

- b) initiate training programs in government departments and in the private sector for persons with disabilities in consultation and coordination with concerned union ministries;*
- c) Organizations, companies and private businesses will benefit tax reduction/avoidance from appointing more persons with disabilities than determined quota in accordance with the number of persons with disabilities appointed.*

In Section 36, employers must:

- a) follow policies and projects set by the Amyotha Committee to provide access to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities;*
- b) employ persons with disabilities who have the necessary capabilities in accordance with the quota set by the Amyotha Committee;*
- c) select persons with disabilities registered at the Township Employment and Labor Seeker Department in hiring employees according to sub-section (b);*
- d) make relevant arrangements for persons with disabilities to gain access to interviews, fair salaries, equal labor rights, promotions, job security and free vocational trainings;*
- e) provide funding to the Charity of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities if employers are unable to appoint the number of persons with disabilities in accordance with the quota;*

- f) *Report the number of persons with disabilities employed as staff members and a list of vacant positions to the Employment and Labor Seeker Department.*

Advantages to Be Gained

By implementing these measures, the state will reduce the unemployment rate and the poverty rate for Myanmar's 2.3 million persons with disabilities, improving the standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families. The alleviation of poverty by the government will be more successful and the dignity of Myanmar will be recognized by other countries.





EDUCATION

Request (10) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

To set up the particular Inclusive Education Department under the Ministry of Education and implement policies and programs that to provide equal access to education for persons with disabilities.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
Ministry of Education should establish a Department for Inclusive Education for persons with disabilities to enjoy equal rights to education implementing policies and procedures.	Ministry of Education, Amyotha Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Background Information and the Need for Reform

According to the state survey (2010) of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, 53% of children with disabilities do not have access to education. Likewise, graduates with disabilities are still less than 2%.

Persons with disabilities do not have equal access to education because of the lack of support from family members and their communities, often inaccessible school designs, teaching materials and methodologies which are not conducive for persons with disabilities, lack of individualization to the learning styles of persons with disabilities, refusal of some education staff and teachers to admit persons

with disabilities, and lack of effective policies and procedures from the Ministry of Education to ensure inclusive education.

It is difficult for persons with disabilities to access education for a variety of reasons. The Ministry of Education does not train educators on the concepts and necessary accommodations necessary for inclusive education across all educational levels. Thus, it is necessary to establish the Department of Inclusive Education at the union level to guide, supervise and support persons with disabilities and provide every child with access to education. The Myanmar government's mission to ensure every citizen is literate will be realized if these recommendations are implemented.

Regarding this case, in Chapter (5) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law enacted in June 2015,

In section (20), every person with a disability has:

- a) the right to education on an equal basis with others;*
- b) the right to education at state, public, private and organizationally-owned schools, training programs, colleges and universities, private schools and private vocational schools.*

In section (21), the Amyotha Committee must develop plans for persons with disabilities to access curriculum, necessary accommodations, transportation support and learning materials from the primary level to higher education.

In section (22), the Amyotha Committee must instruct the Ministry of Education to create an inclusive education system and adapt curriculum and teaching methodologies in accordance with the types of disabilities.

In section (23), schools may not reject applicants for the reason of their disability, when persons with disabilities apply for school admission.

In section (24), every child with a disability has:

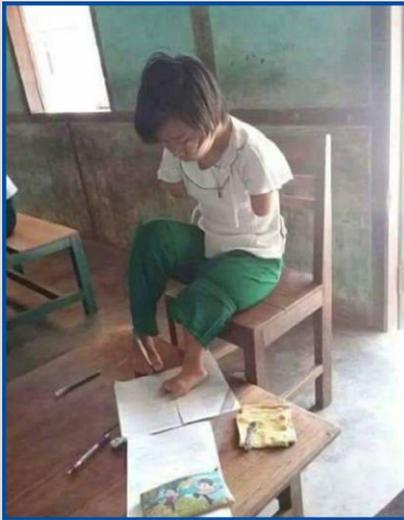
- a) a right to education, including early childhood development and life-long learning;*
- b) the right to education on an equal basis with others at public schools in their communities or in a nearby area through the level of publically-funded education determined by the Ministry of Education.*

In section (25), the Ministry must arrange a special education program, a non-formal education program and a vocational program for persons with disabilities who are unable to go to school.

Advantages to Be Gained

By implementing these measures, the state ensures that persons with disabilities will gain equal rights to education and become more independent citizens. Myanmar will be recognized as one which respects children's' rights and the rights of persons with disabilities by the world.





Request (11) of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Registration cards for persons with disabilities should be issued immediately.

Ways to Implement and Responsible Organizations

Measures and Ways	Responsible Organizations
To immediately begin registration for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Chapter 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law.	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be formed in accordance with the law under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
To be immediately commence registration by the Chief Registration Officer from the Department of Social Welfare, in coordination and consultation with the Ministry of Health and organizations of persons with disabilities.	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; Ministry of Health; Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<p>To monitor and supervise to ensure that implementation in respective states/regions commences within the designated period.</p>	<p>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Organizations of persons with disabilities; and Legal Departments</p>
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Background Information and the Need for Reform

Myanmar ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on December 7, 2011. Moreover, Myanmar has called for a registration process for persons with disabilities in Chapter 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law that was enacted on June 5, 2015.

As Myanmar is moving forward on developing each sector, it must also improve the status of persons with disabilities in Myanmar.

Having been a signatory of the UNCRPD for more than five years, Myanmar is still weak in implementation of elements included in the convention.

In comparison with other countries in the region, Myanmar is behind in various sectors, including protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

The country has seen, in many examples, that wheelchair users have to pay double for public transportation such as trains or buses because they are using wheelchairs and persons with disabilities are more likely to be denied when applying for jobs. In some cases, persons with disabilities are misunderstood at the airport when they request wheelchairs, may be asked to walk to prove their disabilities, they are charged for using wheelchairs on an international flight, and wheelchair users have been arrested for using wheelchairs in no-vehicle areas.

Moreover, it happens that opportunists impersonate persons with disabilities to exploit programs that provide support for persons with disabilities.

These situations and incidents are often caused by not having identification or registration as persons with disabilities.

In Chapter 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law that was enacted in June 2015:

37. Persons with Disabilities may apply for registration cards, in accordance with regulations, and may indicate they are a person with disabilities if they choose to do so, in order to enjoy the rights included in this law.

38. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

(a) Shall assign the Director General of the Department to be Chief Registration Officer.

(b) Shall assign social welfare officers in Region or State to be Registration Officers to work on registration process according to this law.

39. In line with the instructions of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Chief Registration Officer

(a) Shall supervise the working process of registration to ensure all persons with disabilities can enjoy their rights;

(b) Shall exercise international norms and codes of ethics to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms when processing registration for persons with disabilities;

(c) Shall facilitate the registration of persons with disabilities and measuring the level of disability process by the Disability Measuring and Defining Team;

(d) Shall provide medical check-ups and issue medical recommendations for persons with disabilities.

40. Persons with disabilities may choose whether they wish to be registered, and registered persons with disabilities shall apply themselves or through a representative to a registration supervisor for to determine the level of disabilities, in accordance with regulations.

41. The registration supervisor

(a) Shall scrutinize the registration application according to Article 40, and coordinate with the Disability Measuring and Defining Team that issues medical recommendations with regards to persons with disabilities.

(b) Shall present the application together with the medical recommendation issued by the Disability Measuring and Defining Team according to Section(a), to the relevant registration officer.

42. The relevant registration officer

(a) Shall scrutinize the presented application according to Article 41, Section(b), and then present together with remarks to the region or state Committee.

(b) Shall send the list to be recorded with the relevant Region or State Committee, after cancelling the registration with the approval of the Region or State Committee when a registered person with disability applies registration.

(c) Shall present with the remarks by the Disability Measuring and Defining Team to Region or State Committee, when the application for redefining the level of disability by a person with disability is not in line with the measurements.

43. The Region or State Committee

(a) May approve or reject the application for registration after scrutinizing the application submitted according to the Article 42, Section (a).

(b) Shall issue certified letter to the applicant if he or she has been allowed to be registered as a person with disabilities, according to Section (b).

(c) May approve or cancel the application for redefining the level of disabilities and presentation of invalidity according to the Article 42, Section (c)

(d) Shall keep records of registrations rejected for persons of disabilities by each registration officer, disaggregated by disability category.

Advantages to Be Gained

If registration card system for Persons with Disabilities were implemented, this may be supportive somehow on losing rights of Persons with Disabilities and may reduce the un-necessary discrimination on Persons with Disabilities. The participation of Persons with Disabilities will increase in implementing development process for 2.3 millions of Persons with Disabilities in Myanmar. Moreover, statistic data on disability will become the updated one with time all over the country. Also the dignity of our country will glow internationally by promoting the development of Persons with Disabilities, one of minority and vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

We encourage the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the State/Region Hluttaws, the Union Election Commission and sub-commissions, political parties, relevant ministries, international and national organizations and people across the country to fully cooperate and implement the above-mentioned prioritized requests of the organizations of persons with disabilities during the government's five-year term of office.

Websites Providing Facts, Books and Documents of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Disability Related Organizations

Austrian Development Agency

- http://www.entwicklung.at/uploads/media/Focus_Persons_with_disabilities_01.PDF

OECD

- <http://www.oecd.org/>

BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

- <http://www.oecd.org/>

International Disability and Development Consortium

- <http://www.iddconsortium.net/resources-tools>

Rehabilitation International

- www.riglobal.org

WHO

- www.who.int

CBM

- www.cbm.org

Hesperian Foundation

- www.hesperian.org

Motivation International

- www.motivation.org.uk

Handicap International

- www.handicap-international.org.uk

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed

- www.crp-bangladesh.org

We Can Do

- Wecando.wordpress.com

UN Enable

- www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/

UNICEF

- www.unicef.org.au

ILO

- www.ilo.org

Inclusive Job Centre

- www.inclusivejobcentre.com
- www.cdd.org.bd/about-disability/cdd-resources

ESCAP Social Development in Asia and the Pacific

- <http://www.unescapsdd.org/publications/escap-guide-disability-indicators-incheon-strategy>

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

- www.ifes.org/myanmar
- <http://www.ifes.org/news/disability-inclusive-elections-week-ukraine>

AGENDA

- www.agendaasia.org

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

- <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/right-political-participation-persons-disabilities-summary>

Department of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

- <http://www.dsw.gov.mm/mm/node/29>

Myanmar Deaf Society (Mandalay)

- https://www.facebook.com/yadana.aung.315?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser
- <https://www.facebook.com/Myanmar-Deaf-Society-1597560847163518/>

Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association (MDCDA)

- <https://www.facebook.com/mdcda.org.mm/>

Myanmar Federation for People with Disabilities (MFPD)

- https://www.facebook.com/MFPwDs/info/?entry_point=page_nav_about_item
- <http://www.mfpd.org.mm/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=Myanmar%20Federation%20of%20PWs>

Myanmar Independent Living Initiative(MILI)

- <http://www.mili.org.mm/>
- <https://soundcloud.com/miliradio>
- <https://www.facebook.com/myanmarili2015>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/miliwebtv>

Eden Center

- https://www.facebook.com/ECDCmyanmar/?ref=py_c
- <http://www.edencentre.org/>

Myanmar National Association of the Blinds (MNAB)

- <http://mnab-myanmar.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/mnabmyanmar/?fref=ts>

Disability Related References

Disabled Village Children

- <http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/global/david/dwe002/dwe00201.htm>

Toolkit on Eliminating Violence Against Women And Girls With Disabilities In Fiji

- [http://www.pacificdisability.org/getattachment/Resources/PDF-Resources/Toolkit-on-Eliminating-Violence-Against-Women-And-Girls-With-Disabilities-In-Fiji-\(1\).pdf.aspx](http://www.pacificdisability.org/getattachment/Resources/PDF-Resources/Toolkit-on-Eliminating-Violence-Against-Women-And-Girls-With-Disabilities-In-Fiji-(1).pdf.aspx)

Bali Declaration on Persons with Disabilities

- <http://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2013/resources/publication/2013%208.%20aug%20-%20bali%20declaration%20on%20persons%20with%20disabilities.pdf>

CONVENTION on the Rights of PERSONS with DISABILITIES

- <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Understanding the Challenges of Disability in Myanmar

- http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Understanding_the_Challenges_of_Disability_in_Myanmar-red.pdf

Country Profile on Disability Union of Myanmar – World Bank

- http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/Regions/East-Asia-Pacific/JICA_Myanmar.pdf
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Myanmar (1993) The Child Law, accessed from

- www.blc-burma.org/html/myanmar%20law/lr_e_ml93_09.html
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MYANMAR COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE 7TH ASEAN & JAPAN HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS MEETING ON CARING SOCIETIES 31 AUGUST- 3 SEPTEMBER 2009 TOKYO, JAPAN

- http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kokusaigyomu/asean/asean/kokusai/siryou/dl/siryou_07i.pdf

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Cautious hope for Burma Second-Class-Citizens

- <http://www.dvb.no/analysis/cautious-hope-for-burma%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98second-class-citizens%E2%80%99/19155>

CRC 2012: Suggestions for disability relevant questions to be included in the list of issues for Pre-Sessional Working Group-CRC 58th Session

- <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs12/CRC2012-Myanmar-NGO-IDA.pdf>

UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters

- http://www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr/documents/2013DisabilitySurveyReport_030714.pdf

World report on Disability

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_report_on_disability

For further information and references on disability, please contact to following organizations.

No.	Name of organization	Contact Person	Phone No/Email	Address of organization
1.	Myanmar Federation for People with Disabilities	U Aung Ko Myint (Chair Person) U Myat Thu Win (Secretary)	01 218115 aungko1975@gmail.com smtcoltd93@gmail.com	No(13/B) , U Kyaw Doon Zan Street, In front of Western Hospital, Kyeemyindine township
2.	Myanmar Independent Living Initiative(MILI)	Naw Beauty Bright (Admin Manager)	09 450067247 Fax – 01 9669133	No(17),Thar Yar Aye Street, (3) Ward, Mayangone township, Yangon(Near Yeyanaung Bustop)
3.	Myanmar National Association of the Blinds (MNAB)	U Aung Ko Myint	09 5102118 09 422555882 09 33982313 mnabmyanmar@gmail.com	No(1371), Thar Yar Aye Street, Taung Thu Gone Ward, Insein township, Yangon
4.	Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blinds (MCFB)	U Saw Thauing Kyi	09 450038704 mcfb.admin@gmail.com	No(165), Baho Street, (2) Ward, Mayangone township, Yangon
5.	Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association(MDCDA)	U Kyaw Kyaw (Program Director)	09 976882998	No(95/B), 4 th floor, Thar Yar Aye Street, Mayangone township , Yangon
6.	Yangon Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (YDHP)	Daw Tin Nwe Oo (Secretary)	09 795502082	No(73) , Marlarmyaing (7) Street, (16) Ward, Hlaing township, Yangon
7.	Mary Chapman School for the Deaf Children	Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thein (Headmistress)	09 5201910 01 221872 01 218343	No(2), Than Ta Man Street, Dagon township, Yangon
8.	Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar)	U Myat Thu Win	09 5103725 smtcoltd93@gmail.com	Building No(104/B), MAC tower-2, 1 st floor, Bogoke and Nguwar Street Junction, Lann Ma Daw township, Yagnon

9.	Association of Myanmar Disabled Women Affairs	Daw Yin Yin Maw (Chair Person)	09 5403470 yinyinmaw210@gmail.com	No(5/7), MRTV Staffs' Residence, Sanchaung township, Yangon
10.	Future Star Advocacy Group of Intellectual Disabled Persons	Daw Nwe Ni Aye (Chair Person) Daw Khin Myo Su (Secretary)	09 5077397 09 972466518 dkhinmyosu53@gmail.com	No (2/B) , Bo Tay Za (3) Street, Thu Wanna township, Yangon
11.	Linn Yaung Chi SHG of PWDs Shwe Pyi Thar	U Zaw Min (Chair Person) U Khin Aung Than (Vice Chair Person)	09 254321029 09 788343242 khinaungthan45@gmail.com	No(368/A), Jade Street, 5/8 Ward, Shwe Pyi Thar Street, Yangon
12.	SHG Network of PWDs Shwe Pyi Thar	U Htin Aung Zaw (Chair Person) U Hla Htay (Secretary)	09 32372619 htinaungkyaw11mm.com 09 97835606	7/9 Ward, Bayintnaung Street, Near Nawaratt Market, Shwe Pyi Thar, Yangon
13.	Mhaw Bi DPO	U Aung Thiike Win (Chair Person) U Aung Kyaw Oo (Secretary)	09 790141408 aungthikewin1344@gmail.com 09 793600797	Wanatchaung Sanpya Village, Mhawbi township, Yangon
14.	Smile World SHG of PWDs Hlaing Thar Yar	U Than Soe Aung	09 31570547	269/A , Pha Ann Street, (9) Ward, Hlaing Thar Yar township, Yangon
15.	Tet Lann SHG of PWDs Hlaing Thar Yar	U Wai Yan Min Shein	09 258087204	No (1247/A), Kyan Sitt Thar Street, (16) Ward, Hlaing Thar Yar , Yangon

Thank You

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Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)