

**Statement by Mr. Myint Thu,
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Delegation of
Myanmar
During Item 2: General Debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner
at the 38th Session of Human Rights Council
Geneva, 19 June 2018**

Mr. President,

- Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by China on behalf of the Like-minded Group.
- The promotion and protection of human rights could only be achieved through the principle of cooperation as enshrined in the GA resolution 60/251. The issues should be addressed with balance, impartial and objective manner based on the concrete evidence on the ground instead of exercising cherry pick from unverified sources.
- We are deeply disturbed by increasing use of unverified information including selective compilation of largely distorted information and remote monitoring in compiling reports of the High Commissioner without respecting territorial integrity of a sovereign state. Such reports should not find ways to the Council.

Mr. President

- The situation in Rakhine State, particularly in northern Rakhine, is a complex challenge of enormous dimension involving issues including, but not limited to, sovereignty, territorial integrity, terrorism, rule of law, human rights and mass migration.
- Unless the security challenges are promptly addressed, the risk of renewed inter-communal violence will remain. The security situation in northern Rakhine deteriorated sharply following the attacks on police outposts in Maungtau Township by the terrorist group called ARSA. The subsequent clashes between the security forces and the terrorists with the inevitable consequences of conflict led to a significant number of Muslims seeking shelter in the neighbouring country and other communities in Southern Rakhine.
- Amnesty International recently released a report detailing the massacre of 99 Hindus by ARSA terrorists. The root cause of the tragedy was terrorism and terrorism cannot be condoned under any circumstance. It must be nipped in the bud. Any support, including moral support to terrorists, should be avoided.
- With the arrival of the monsoon season in the region, there is a real danger that floods and landslides will have a disastrous effect on the camps of displaced persons. There is an urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to all and to expedite the repatriation process agreed by Myanmar and Bangladesh in November 2017.
- Myanmar is doing its utmost to repatriate the displaced people expeditiously in order to avoid yet another humanitarian disaster.
- We hope that with the recent signing of the MoU between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR, things will now move expeditiously and the UN agencies will take part in various stages of return and resettlement as well as sustainable socio-economic development in Rakhine. The cooperation will create condition further conducive environment to voluntary, safe and dignified return of the verified displaced persons.

Mr. President,

- The leadership of the present Government has been striving for freedom, democracy and human rights in Myanmar even before they assumed the responsibility of State. Our leadership shall never tolerate any grave violation of human rights.
- With this in mind, early this month, the Government announced to form an Independent Commission of Enquiry. The Commission will consist of national and international personalities, and will be supported by national and international legal and technical experts.
- Myanmar calls on the international community, including the OHCHR, to see the situation in Rakhine more objectively and to be part of the solution. Naming and shaming cannot help resolve the situation. It can only further inflame the current tension in Rakhine. It is also antithetical to a peaceful and durable resolution of the situation.
- I thank you.
