

**Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Htin Lynn,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar
at the 27th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
General Debate
Geneva, 5 December 2017**

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner, Ambassadors, Dear Colleagues,

1. Myanmar has the paramount concern above and beyond anyone else, on the humanitarian situation at the border and root causes in Rakhine State. Accordingly, the Government is making every effort to resolve these issues as swift and comprehensive as possible.
2. Myanmar is ready for more cooperation with the wider United Nations system in support of national efforts to improve the situation in Rakhine State. It was clearly mentioned to Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffery Feltman during his recent visit in October this year. The Secretary-General, on his part, agreed on the importance of building constructive cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations in contributing to efforts to improve the situation in Rakhine and taking the region forward toward lasting stability, peace and harmony among the communities. **Any effort in the Human Rights Council should be done in this vision and cooperation framework.**
3. If we are to be part of the solution, we should be concentrating, **firstly**, on **immediate challenge** of repatriating people displaced.
4. Myanmar has concluded the bilateral Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State with Bangladesh on 23 November 2017. We are finalizing the Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group which will be established within 3 weeks of signing of the Arrangement. The process of return will be launched within 2 months. UNHCR and other mandated UN agencies as well as interested international partners will be participating in various stages of return and resettlement, and to assist returnees to carry on life and livelihood as

members of Myanmar society. These important provisions are clearly stipulated in the agreement.

5. To address **long-term challenges** in Rakhine State, we have a clear road map. The Government is implementing the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission effectively and efficiently to help find lasting solutions to the complex and delicate issues in Rakhine State including poverty alleviation and development, assurance of basic rights and the promotion of trust, harmony and reconciliation. To facilitate and track that process of implementation, an Advisory Board, comprised of local prominent figures and international experts from Thailand, Sweden, UK and US in their personal capacity, has been instituted.

6. Myanmar is fully prepared to work with all international partners on a pragmatic and helpful approach to issues in Rakhine State including addressing the root causes as well as voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation as well as resettlement of the displaced people.

Mr. President,

7. I have three quick responses by way of clarification. Mr. High Commissioner mentioned that people have been depicted as animals as such or subject to demonizing or dehumanizing. This is not the policy of the Government. This could be an act of extremist individuals, and the Government is doing everything possible to deter these acts. Dramatizing the issue is as always misleading the people.

8. I would also like to respond to Chair of coordination committee of Special Procedure, Ms. Catalina, on creation of another camps. I can assure you there will be no camp for returnees. However, there will be a place for them while arrangements are being underway to resettle them to their original places. Casting negative light on every effort made by the Government is not a helpful way forward.

9. I would also like to respond to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on sexual violence in conflict. I welcome your visit to Myanmar in the

near future. We have done our homework on human rights violations investigation methodologies. In a course of simple social interviews, people would say what they wanted to believe and sometime and they would say what they were told to say. Allegations without concrete body of evidence is misleading the people, facilitate misjudgment of a situation and taking us away from the truth.

10. **I thank you, Mr. President.**
