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Press Release

1. During the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, which took place from 27 May to 14 June 2013, certain member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) made serious attempts to table a draft resolution on Myanmar on account of the violence that had occurred in Rakhine State, Meikthila and a few other places in the country. But, in the absence of support, they took an alternative approach to the issuance of a presidential statement by the Council.
2. As the country is stable and peaceful, and also due to the fact that the government has been taking necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of the communal violence, the situation in Myanmar does not require the special attention of the Human Rights Council. Hence, the consideration of a resolution in this context is unjustifiable.
3. Myanmar is not unaware of the concerns by some member states of the OIC in connection with Myanmar. Cognizant of these concerns, Myanmar made a constructive engagement with the OIC and worked together on the proposed presidential statement. Following the negotiations that were conducted among the concerned parties, a presidential statement was adopted by the Council on 14 June 2013. The statement reflects the views of not only from both sides but also from the member states of the Human Rights Council.
4. The presidential statement conveys the views and concerns of some member states of the OIC. At the same time, it also acknowledges the progressive development including the political will and the practical measures being taken by Myanmar.
5. In procedural terms, a presidential statement is not legally binding. It is a tool to express views on a particular situation. In the present case, the statement carries the illogical expressions by some overzealous countries, the unverified and incomplete information, the misperception of the communal violences as religion-based, as incorrectly portrayed by the international media and the use of unaccepted language. Following the adoption of the statement, the

Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva made a response, in unequivocal terms, dismissing the invalid assertions in connection with the communal violence.

6. Taking into consideration of the recommendations made by the Rakhine Investigation Commission and also in line with the mandate of the Committees on the Stability and Development in Rakhine State, Myanmar has been taking measures for the durable peace and economic development of the people in Rakhine State.

7. The State Constitution of Myanmar contains sufficient provisions on recognition, assistance for and protection of all religions as well as opposition to hatred, enmity or discord between racial and religious communities or sects. On the basis of these principles, Myanmar will continue to steadfastly endeavour to realize a harmonious society of peaceful co-existence.

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations
Geneva
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