

**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun,
Permanent Representative of Myanmar**

**Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Situation of Human
Rights in Myanmar**

at the 41st Session of Human Rights Council

Geneva, 2 July 2019

Mr. President,

Realization of human rights, achieving peace and attaining inclusive development are mutually reinforcing in the democratic transition of Myanmar. Without succeeding all these together, our democratic transition could not blossom and bear fruits.

With that in mind, the government has spared no effort in nurturing democratic norms and practices among its people, strengthening democratic institutions and rule of law and pursuing peace process.

The Government of Myanmar is working tirelessly to end ethnic strife and armed conflicts and to achieve sustainable peace in Myanmar through peace process. Recently, the Military has extended again the ceasefire until the end of August to enable further discussions on peace.

At the same time, the government has been trying to bring about national reconciliation in different fields and different level, between different ethnic groups, between different communal groups, between people of different political ideas and different level of education. We believe in the culture of dialogue to reconcile differences, to build trust and confidence and to pursue a lasting peace and sustainable development for all.

Structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies, 251 Action Plans, all firmly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – MSDP, launched in 2018 - articulates our long-term national development vision, that is, a vision of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar.

As stated in MSDP, democracy and respect for individual rights together with the rule of law are the vehicles by which Myanmar will escape poverty and achieve the prosperity our people seek and deserve.

Our democratic reform is very much alive and the progress we have made in our reform journey is nothing short of remarkable. As I mentioned at the last March session of HRC, we are in need of a constitution that can truly protect democratic

rights of the people. Accordingly, the joint parliamentary committee was formed. It met 21 times since its establishment in February this year and it will submit a report to the parliament soon.

We are also fully aware of the fact that serious challenges remain, armed conflicts continue, and we need continued endeavours. We are constantly alert to the challenges and will strive to overcome them. We aim to resolve them through dialogue and negotiation.

Mr. President,

We, who are living through the transition in Myanmar and enjoying the widening of democratic space, view the progress differently from those who observe it from the outside.

In Myanmar, the voices of people from all walks of life and every part of the region are heard at the highest level. The leadership have regular interaction with the general public. Freedom of expression and media is one of the most visible areas of change in Myanmar. Mobile phone penetration is among the highest in the region. No restriction is imposed on the use of internet and social media but we need to strike a balance between “Security and Freedom”, “Rights and Responsibilities”.

Mr. President,

With regard to the issue of Rakhine, the Government is fully aware of its primary responsibility and has placed it as utmost priority since day-1. Alongside the Rakhine Advisory Commission’s recommendations, the work of the Independent Commission of Enquiry is becoming important guiding light for the resolution. We are taking holistic and inclusive approach for finding sustainable solution.

We share deep sympathy and concern for all displaced persons from all communities. We have been ready to receive the verified returnees since 23 January 2018, as agreed in the bilateral Arrangements.

The most urgent task for us now is to commence and expedite repatriation. At the same time, we need to speed up the implementation of Quick Impact Projects of UNDP and UNHCR to create enabling environment for returnees in Rakhine State. The ASEAN will complement the works of the UN by facilitating the repatriation process. Through these efforts, more conducive environment will be created for the verified returnees.

We are also working with the friendly nations to build houses in the northern Rakhine.

In this regard, anyone should not turn a blind eye on Myanmar's genuine and concerted efforts for enabling the repatriation.

The humanitarian assistance is being provided to all affected communities including IDPs through the Government, UEHRD, local NGOs, Red Cross Movement, WFP and ICRC.

Visit of media personnel to northern Rakhine have been organized regularly. Recently, in May, local and foreign media covered ground situation in villages in Maungdaw Township including reception centre.

Instead of naming, shaming and pressuring the country based on groundless allegation, please join hand with us in a constructive manner to find a sustainable solution.

Since the Special Rapporteur did not respond my question during the interactive dialogue with her on 11 March in this very room, I would like to ask her again that whether she is aware of the displaced persons in the camps in Cox's Bazaar including 444 Hindus who repeatedly express their desire to return to Rakhine. I would like to stress that the work of the Special Rapporteur should be impartial and not be selective.

With this, **Mr. President**, I would like to turn to our position on the current Special Rapporteur. Myanmar subscribes to the aims and purposes of the Human Rights Council and has been consistently cooperating with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. In good faith and in the spirit of cooperation with the Council, we participate in the Interactive Dialogues.

In this regard, the ability of the Special Rapporteur to look at the problem objectively and impartially, to analyse it correctly, to find the right answer, and to assist and support in the constructive way is of paramount importance for promotion and protection of human rights in a concerned country.

The country's particular circumstances including the perspectives of people and their government, unique historical and cultural backgrounds, constraints, as well as challenges and complexities should not be neglected.

Special Rapporteur must uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of the concerned country, and work consistently with high integrity and in an impartial, objective, constructive and non-selective manner, and most importantly, in good faith and goodwill.

The consistent discreditable conduct of Special Rapporteur has proved to be counter-productive. Therefore, we would like to reiterate our call for replacement of the current Special Rapporteur.

Myanmar will continue to extend its cooperation with the relevant UN mechanisms including with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar.

Mr. President,

This is a critical juncture for Myanmar in its journey towards a democratic federal union. In our promotion and protection of human rights, we will not tolerate any non-constructive measures and retributive actions to make disunity of our people and infringement of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Myanmar's democracy is very young and still yet incomplete. We look to friends from all over the world to support us in the constructive way to move our journey forward.

I thank you, Mr. President.
