

**Statement by Permanent Representative of Myanmar H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun
at General Debate on report of IIM**

(10 September 2019)

Mr. President,

Once again, Myanmar reiterates its firm position, conviction and commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and to ridding of double standards, politicization, impartiality and selectivity.

We are fully aware of the differences between genuine concern for human rights and political drives.

We rejected highly politicized resolutions against our country including the resolutions 34/22 and 39/2.

Myanmar categorically rejected FFM and its reports.

It is flawed, biased and politically motivated by possible ulterior motives from its genesis.

Myanmar has found reasonable grounds to conclude that FFM fully adheres to what it wants to focus and one-sided unsubstantiated allegations while rejecting any contradicting evidence.

It deliberately discounted atrocities committed by ARSA terrorist group who massacred security personnels and hundreds of innocent civilians including a hundred Hindu villagers, other ethnic minorities and pro-government Muslims.

As the reports intend to harm the interests of Myanmar and its people, FFM receives strong objections from the whole of Myanmar – from government, non-government enterprises, Chamber of Commerce, private enterprises, UEHRD, Federation of Trade Unions Myanmar.

Myanmar strongly objected the establishment of IIM, which is an extension of FFM and another step of undue pressure and selective discriminatory scrutinization on Myanmar, by the UN human rights body.

Members of the Council even pointed out that the establishment of IIM is beyond the mandate of the Council.

Its TOR is intrusive on our sovereignty. A more than 26 million US Dollar budget allocation for 2 years to monitor a country, whose democratic transition is still very much alive, would be wasting the scarce resources of the UN, especially at this time of budget constraint that the UN is facing, specifically funding difficulty for the coverage of meetings of the HRC. Meeting coverage is important for all delegations particularly small delegations which cannot follow all meetings at the same time.

“Without consent” of the country concerned, these intrusive measures, heaping mechanism upon mechanism, only serve to aggravate and will not resolve any issue in Myanmar.

Mr. President,

Fully aware of its primary responsibility as a sovereign state, Myanmar takes strides to ensure enjoyment of human rights by its entire people.

Having struggled long for democracy, the current leaders of our democratically elected civilian government do not and will not condone any human rights abuses.

The culture of impunity by policy or by practice is not accepted.

As we have repeatedly stated, perpetrators will be punished in accordance with the law, upon credible evidence.

Myanmar is willing and capable of addressing the issue of accountability for alleged violations. We are addressing it with our national accountability mechanisms.

The ICOE, the fact-finding commission with special investigative and judicial powers, is tasked to investigate alleged violations and related issues following the terror attacks of ARSA in Rakhine. Its advanced team visited Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar last month to prepare groundwork and to dispatch of its evidence collection team to Cox’s Bazar. ICOE will submit its final report along with case files, documentation, evidence and information received against any perpetrator.

In addition, the Myanmar Armed Forces has also established its own Court of Inquiry, supported by a Legal Advisory Team, and is continuing its investigation.

In this regard, Myanmar strongly rejects any mechanism or any attempt to take the matter to any international judicial or legal body unless it is patently clear that national remedies have been exhausted.

Mr. President,

As Myanmar recognizes the important role of the UN in realization of human rights, it is cooperating with the relevant UN mechanisms.

We are in close cooperation with the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General. We welcomed her 8th visit last week. We welcomed the visits of UN representatives including Secretary-General's Special Representatives for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Children and Armed Conflicts as well as High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. President,

The issue in Rakhine is one of the complex challenges of Myanmar on its path towards democracy.

As committed, the government has been striving, with holistic approach, for long term stability, security and sustainable development in the State.

Our priority now is to expedite repatriation and to create more conducive environment for verified returnees.

To achieve it, we cooperate with Bangladesh, UNDP and UNHCR, ASEAN friends and our friendly countries.

Myanmar is aware of many obstacles including destructive movements in the camps to hinder repatriation and exploit the plight of displaced persons. That also needs to be addressed.

Smooth and successful repatriation largely requires genuine political will, committed efforts as well as strict adherence to the signed Agreements.

To conclude, **Mr. President**, we request the Council to differentiate motives behind the actions at this chamber – genuine will to protect human rights **OR** to hijack human rights issue for political purpose.

As we address delicate issue in Rakhine, we need truth, fairness and constructive support. Exertion of discriminatory scrutinization and political pressure with malicious intent, will not contribute to our efforts in resolving the problems.

In this regard, we – the government and people of Myanmar – truly appreciate the support rendered by many friends and partners and their constructive cooperation, with genuine goodwill. It benefits to all people of Myanmar.

We invite the international community to join hands with us, in constructive way, to ensure that democracy takes firm root in Myanmar.

Thank you, Mr. President.