



MYANMAR

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun,
Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the consideration of the draft
resolution L.23 “Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar”
at the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

Geneva, 22 June 2020

Madam President,

The ritual draft resolution L.23 tabled under Item 4 by the EU, is based on unverified accounts and the one-sided politicized reports of the Special Rapporteur as well as the biased reports of the Fact-Finding Mission which lack impartiality, independence and credibility.

Not surprisingly but it is regrettable that the visible development in Myanmar, despite numerous challenges it faces in its transitions towards a democratic state are not being sincerely recognized to the extent that it deserves. When it comes to human rights, every country has challenges. The approaches for solving these challenges must be based on equity, not just the equality.

Therefore, the draft resolution L.23 must be resolutely rejected in considering the following points, among others.

First, selective adoption of country-specific resolutions should be avoided. Human rights issues must be addressed in within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized, non-selective and dialogue-based approach in a fair and equal manner. The country specific mandates do not contribute to improving rather worsening the situation on the ground.

Second, the scarce budget of the UN should not be used in vain. It is also regrettable that while the Council tried to address the issue of liquidity crisis of the UN, thereby sacrificing the General debates for the June Session, millions of dollars are used on country specific mandates. Especially, in case of Myanmar it is using the resources for establishing multiple mechanisms to scrutinize the same country.

Third, sovereign right of a country should not be intruded rather be respected. The issue of Rakhine is just one of many challenges Myanmar faces. The complex and longstanding nature of the situation in Rakhine State requires a full range of initiatives

to bring peace and stability to all affected communities, including the promotion of human rights and economic development for all. The Independent Commission of Inquiry (ICOE) submitted its final report in January 2020. Domestic Criminal justice mechanism has been activated based on the Final Report of ICOE with directives of the Office of the President, with an aim of ensuring full accountability and responsibility for those found guilty of human rights violations. Therefore, the domestic accountability process of Myanmar should be respected.

Fourth, the draft resolution does not reflect the reality. Myanmar is undergoing a difficult democratic transition and is facing many challenges in its endeavours to promote sustainable peace, national reconciliation, and development throughout the country. Despite these challenges, achievements have been made in many sectors. In the area of promotion and protection of human rights, a number of international conventions were ratified including ICECSR and the ILO Minimum Age Convention. New domestic laws were enacted, including the Child Rights Law.

Finally, the international community should extend helping hands to Myanmar, instead of imposing impediments on Myanmar. The democratically elected civilian government has exerted utmost efforts for building a Democratic Federal Union and achieving the sustainable development throughout the country. Particularly at present, Myanmar, like others, is addressing the unexpected challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic. Myanmar's response to the pandemic is based on the principle of "leaving no one behind", and covers all vulnerable communities, including those in IDP camps and persons with disabilities as well as Ethnic Armed Organizations. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi points out that people are the key by stressing "we place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of all for one and one for all".

Madam President,

We believe that the EU's draft resolution would in no way contribute to finding solutions to overcome the challenges we face. It would rather impose serious impediments on our efforts for bringing peace, stability, and development for all the peoples across the country.

Therefore, Myanmar categorically rejects the draft resolution L.23.

We request the member states of the Human Rights Council to reject the resolution by casting a negative vote on L.23.

I thank you.
