



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

**47 avenue Blanc, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland**

**Tel. (+41-22)906-9870, 906-9871/ Fax. (+41-22)732-8919**

E-mail : [mission@myanmargeneva.org](mailto:mission@myanmargeneva.org)

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to refer to the misconstrued statement delivered by the Bangladeshi delegate during the General Debate on Agenda Item -9 on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Forms of Intolerance, Follow-Up to and Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action which was held on 6 October at the ongoing 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.

Upholding the firm position of Myanmar's objection to the one-sided decision by the Human Rights Council of restricting the participation of Myanmar delegation since the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Mission of Myanmar exercises its right of reply on the said statement as follows:

- It is undeniable that the major root cause of displacement of over 500,000 people from Northern Rakhine was terrorism since 2017. The terrorist attacks committed by the ARSA aka Aqua Mul Mujahidin caused the deaths of the government staff, ethnic people, Hindus, Muslims, and security personnel who did not follow their agenda and resulted in forced displacement.
- Regarding the baseless allegations raised by the word "racism" within Myanmar society by the statement of the Bangladeshi delegate, Myanmar reaffirms that Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country where freedom of religion and non-discrimination based on ethnicity is guaranteed in its Constitution and in practice. Myanmar stands ready to grant appropriate citizenship status to those who met criteria set out in the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law upon application. The Laws applies to everyone without any discrimination within the country.
- In addition, regarding the accusation about hate speeches using the social media platforms raised by the Bangladeshi delegate on Myanmar, Myanmar objects such baseless allegation. The Government of Myanmar has launched

a number of initiatives to prevent hate speech and promote social cohesion, mutual trust and confidence-building among all communities, to living together in harmony among different societies.

- Finally, it is reiterated that Myanmar does not recognize the invented term “Rohingya” with wider political agenda. The real aim of using this term is to claim wider ethnicity and territorial status. Such usage has never existed in legal and historical records of the country and thus, the people of Myanmar cannot accept it.

Therefore, Myanmar Mission categorically rejects the said statement delivered by the Bangladeshi delegate with unfounded accusations and groundless allegations which is contrary to the actual situation on the ground and ignoring the Government’s efforts including the creation of conducive environment for their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 17 October 2023



**Secretariat of the Human Rights Council  
GENEVA**