

## Summary of Myanmar's efforts for Repatriation of the Displaced Persons

- (1) Repatriation cannot be done by Myanmar alone. Myanmar needs sincere cooperation from neighboring countries. The displaced people in Bangladesh include not only those who lived for a long time in Rakhine state but also illegal migrants migrated from Bangladesh to Myanmar. It has been stated several times that Myanmar have been ready to receive all verified displaced persons from Rakhine State in accordance with the bilateral arrangements.
- (2) Myanmar fully arranged everything with the Bangladesh side to launch repatriation process on 15 November 2018 and on 22 August 2019 respectively. Those attempts were not successful and aborted at the last minutes due to multiple pressures, intimidations and threats by destructive elements.
- (3) Myanmar officials together with the personnel from the ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and ASEAN-ERAT had arranged all necessary preparations as the second attempt to receive the verified displaced persons on 22 August 2019, the day both sides scheduled for repatriation. However, the Bangladesh side failed to send anyone back to Myanmar so that repatriation could not be launched. It is learnt that Bangladesh failed to obtain the signatures of respective displaced persons claiming their voluntariness to return and that neither did most of them even know anything about the plan in advance nor did they know anything about the verification forms. It shows that the Bangladeshi side neither properly distributed the verification forms nor managed to obtain the displaced persons' consent for voluntary return prior to the scheduled date. Such situation is in fact contrary to the bilateral agreement.
- (4) The Myanmar side repeatedly pointed out the Bangladeshi side about the failure of planned repatriation due to the threats and intimidation by the ARSA terrorist elements mingling with the displaced persons inside the camps and some NGOs working in Cox's Bazar.
- (5) With regards to the repatriation of the displaced persons from Rakhine State who crossed over to Bangladesh in 2016 and 2017, the Chairman of the State Administration Council expressed in a statement on 8 February 2021 that relevant agreements will be implemented by continuing bilateral discussions if they are not harmful to the national interest.

- (6) In order to work more effectively on repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons from Rakhine State as well as to work towards peace and stability in the state, the State Administration Council has established the Central Committee on Peace, Stability, and Development of Rakhine State.
- (7) A total of 790 displaced persons have returned voluntarily to Myanmar up to November 2022.
- (8) Myanmar and Bangladesh are negotiating to start the repatriation of more than one thousand verified displaced persons from Bangladesh under the Pilot Project. The Myanmar side is undertaking the preparatory works for resettlement of displaced persons in their respective villages in order to commence the Project as early as possible.