



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

27 February 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the High Commissioner for her latest update on the challenging human rights situation of the Rohingya community and other minorities in Myanmar.

Ireland remains deeply concerned at the ongoing violence in Rakhine State including recent reports of the shelling of a primary school that left 19 children injured. We urge all sides to de-escalate hostilities and to ensure the protection of civilians. Unfettered humanitarian access to affected and vulnerable communities in these, and other conflict zones, remains imperative.

Ireland notes the recent findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the extensive human rights violations identified by the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission. Recalling the conclusions of the IIFFM report on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Ireland urges Myanmar to implement the recommendations included in this report and to ensure that perpetrators of these crimes are held to account.

Ireland reiterates the need for Myanmar to urgently prioritise the creation of conditions necessary for a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Rakhine State. Central to these efforts remains the implementation of the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission, and the pathway to a sustainable and peaceful future they provide.

Madame High Commissioner, welcoming the recent efforts by the ASEAN Secretariat to help displaced persons in Rakhine State, including the establishing of the ad-hoc support team to support this work, how would you recommend the EU, its Member States, and ASEAN cooperate to support the protection of the rights of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar?

Thank you.