

Human Rights Council 39th session

Interactive Dialogue with Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar

18th September 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for its update.

The Mission's report is clear that the most serious of crimes have been committed against the Rohingya community since military operations began in Rakhine State just over one year ago - "*...the manner in which they were perpetrated, are similar in nature, gravity and scope to those that have allowed genocidal intent to be established in other contexts*"¹. It is simply not credible to claim that these acts and the ongoing suffering of the Rohingya constitute a proportionate response to the ARSA attacks of last August.

Ireland also shares the concerns of the Fact-Finding Mission with regard to the treatment of other ethnic minorities, particularly in Kachin and Shan states, by State security forces.

It is time to end the impunity with which these acts have been met. Ireland calls on Myanmar to identify those responsible for these atrocities and bring them to account. We urge Myanmar to engage with the international community and to cooperate with dedicated international mechanisms, including the Fact Finding Mission and the Special Rapporteur, not only to establish accountability, but also to secure justice for victims and to work towards a lasting peace in Myanmar.

We are also seriously concerned by the prosecution of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, whose courageous and valuable work brought these atrocities to light. Ireland calls on Myanmar to

¹ A/HRC/39/64/VI/A

immediately release these two journalists without condition and to take the necessary steps to enable freedom of the media.

Ireland would ask the members of the IIFFM for their guidance on the most appropriate and effective next steps for the international community to take in relation to the situation in Myanmar, particularly in light of recent developments at the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.