



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation
of human rights in Myanmar*

11 March 2019

Thank you Madame Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and strongly share her ongoing concerns on the human rights situation in Myanmar, as well as for the refugees who have had to flee Myanmar for Bangladesh.

Ireland is very concerned by the recent escalation of violence in Rakhine State, which further exacerbates the difficulties faced by civilians who remain on the ground and makes a peaceful solution more elusive. We call on all parties involved to de-escalate hostilities and work towards a peaceful solution for the benefit of the people of Rakhine State. We call on Myanmar to establish unimpeded access to these communities for UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs in order to fully assess and address the needs of civilians who remain in areas of conflict.

Ireland recognises the positive steps taken to support the peace process through the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire in areas of North and East Myanmar and hopes this will be extended to other areas of conflict including Rakhine State.

Ireland re-iterates the critical importance of ensuring full accountability for human rights violations that have been committed in Myanmar. We recognise the establishment of the Independent Commission of Enquiry and reiterate that it must be able to work with independence, impartiality, transparency and objectivity. We expect that its work will be accompanied by serious and transparent efforts by the Government to bring to justice, those responsible for the human rights violations that have occurred. We encourage the Commission to engage with existing UN mechanisms including the Human Rights Council's Independent Mechanism to ensure full accountability for any crimes committed in Myanmar.

Special Rapporteur,

The recent outbreak of violence in Rakhine State shows how challenging achieving peace and stability in Rakhine remains. What recommendations would you make to the international community to support a de-escalation of these latest hostilities?

Thank you