



Statement of Ireland
42nd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive dialogue with the fact-finding mission on Myanmar

17 September 2019

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Fact Finding Mission for its thorough work in collating, documenting and verifying evidence of human rights violations in Myanmar.

Ireland is particularly concerned by the conclusion of the Fact Finding Mission in its report of 22 August on “Sexual and Gender Based Violence” that the Myanmar Government has failed to take action to counter sexual and gender-based violence. Ireland calls on Myanmar to address this issue and to ensure that the perpetrators are held to account.

Ireland welcomes the establishment of the Independent Mechanism to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011 and urges Myanmar to engage with it in a cooperative spirit. We also call on Myanmar to establish without delay the necessary conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees, including providing guarantees of citizenship and to grant unrestricted humanitarian access to all who require assistance.

Distinguished members of the Fact-Finding Mission,

In your report of 8 August, you suggested that laws, for example, on citizenship, freedom of expression and association, could be amended by the NLD-led Government, independently of systemic or constitutional limitations. Could you elaborate on how this might be achieved?

Thank you.