



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2 - Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

14 September 2020

Madame High Commissioner,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and thanks the High Commissioner for her latest update.

Ireland continues to be deeply concerned by reports of ongoing human rights violations in Myanmar. In particular, we are distressed by the high levels of fighting and forced displacement occurring in Rakhine and Chin States. We urge all parties to end this violence and to provide unfettered humanitarian access to all conflict-affected areas and vulnerable communities.

While there remains a long road to achieve sustainable peace and national reconciliation, Ireland is encouraged by international efforts towards ensuring accountability and justice, including the ongoing processes at the IIMM, the ICJ and the ICC. We also note the general elections scheduled for November 2020 and urge the Government of Myanmar to utilise this opportunity to prove its commitment to democratic transition and the fulfilment of human rights for all persons in Myanmar. It is essential that the rights of human rights defenders and journalists are respected and protected during this period.

Ireland continues to urge Myanmar to prioritise the creation of conditions conducive to the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees to their places of origin.

Madam High Commissioner, given the disruption to the induction of staff to the Independent Investigative Mechanism as a result of COVID-19, what mitigation measures will be introduced to support the important functions of this mechanism?

Thank you.