

## **Human Rights Council 38<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar (Oral Update)**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

#### **National Statement of Ireland**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Mr. President,

Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive update. Ireland shares the ongoing concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar including the recent escalation of conflicts in Kachin and Shan states as well as the situation in Rakhine State.

Ireland reiterates our concern at the reported conditions of those who have remained in Rakhine and at the continuing restriction on humanitarian access to Northern Rakhine. We are also concerned for the increasing number of civilians who are being internally displaced by escalating conflict in other regions. We call on Myanmar to take urgent steps to de-escalate hostilities and to establish greater access to these communities for UN agencies and NGOs in order to fully assess and address the needs of civilians who have remained.

Regarding the situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Ireland welcomes the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and the UNHCR and UNDP. Ireland hopes that this will be followed by further constructive dialogue with international partners and concrete action to provide for a peaceful, sustainable future for all communities in Rakhine State and Myanmar more generally.

An important aspect of building this future is the critical need to fully investigate reports of human rights violations and put in place robust accountability measures. Ireland reiterates its call for Myanmar to put in place credible national accountability mechanisms and to engage with the Special Rapporteur and Fact Finding Mission so that a full and credible investigation can be undertaken and, where human rights violations are found to have occurred, that the perpetrators may be brought to justice.

Madame Lee,

We are gravely concerned by the recent escalation of violence and increase in the displacement of civilians in Kachin and Shan states which you have highlighted. What recommendations would you make to the international community to support a de-escalation of these conflicts?

Thank you.