



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights of
Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

10 July 2019

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the High Commissioner for her latest update on the situation in Rakhine State and the challenging human rights situation of the Rohingya community and other minorities in Myanmar.

Ireland shares the High Commissioner's deep concern at the ongoing intensified violence in Rakhine and Chin States which has further exacerbated the already difficult environment for civilians there. Ireland urges all sides to prioritise the protection of civilians and to provide for full unfettered humanitarian access to affected and vulnerable communities in these and other conflict areas.

This latest escalation, and the many concerning reports from the UN and NGOs that have emerged alongside it, demonstrates that the human rights violations identified by the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission and other mandate holders in Rakhine and elsewhere in Myanmar, have not ceased. The need for accountability and justice for these violations remains as pressing as ever if Myanmar is to seriously begin to address the long term peace and prosperity of Myanmar for all its communities. Ireland looks forward to the establishment of the Independent Mechanism later this year and urges Myanmar to engage with it to deliver justice for these violations.

Ireland re-iterates the need for Myanmar to urgently prioritise efforts to create conditions conducive to a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Rakhine State. We urge Myanmar to fully implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, including on key issues such as freedom of movement and a path to citizenship.

Madame High Commissioner, we note the recently published review of the UN's involvement in Myanmar from 2010-2018 and would be grateful for your assessment of its implications and how you see the reports' recommendations be taken forward by the UN system more broadly?

Thank you.