

27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council

Human rights situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar

Statement of Ireland

5 December 2017

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and adds the following:

Mr. President,

Ireland remains extremely concerned about the ongoing situation in Rakhine State. We are deeply worried by reports of serious violence and human rights violations and the consequent humanitarian crisis which has resulted in large movements of predominantly Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh.

We are seriously concerned about those still in Rakhine, and call on Myanmar to re-establish access for humanitarian assistance to people in need and for greater access to the region for UN agencies and NGOs to fully assess and address these needs.

In this context, we recall Human Rights Council Resolution 34/22, which “emphasises that no one should face reprisals, monitoring, surveillance, threats, harassment or intimidation for cooperating or speaking with special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, the international independent fact-finding mission of the United Nations”.

Ireland strongly condemns instances of sexual and gender based violence, as reported by the UN, and urges the Government to provide access to the Fact Finding Mission so that these human rights violations can be fully investigated. It is also very important that media are granted access.

We urge Myanmar to implement swiftly, and in full, the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

Ireland welcomes progress made on an agreement with Bangladesh on the repatriation of refugees. This must, however, be implemented in a way that supports the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees to their place of origin.

Ireland fully recognises the complexity of the political situation in Myanmar. We urge Myanmar to take all measures required to address this crisis in a way that protects civilians without discrimination and fully observes international human rights norms in line with Myanmar's commitments to strengthening its democracy.

Thank you.