

## Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Myanmar (oral update)  
27 June 2018

### Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her update. We note her findings with great concern, and continue to urge Myanmar to resume cooperation with the Special Rapporteur immediately.

Australia reiterates its deep concern about the situation in Rakhine State. We look forward to the High Commissioner's update on the situation of the Rohingya next week.

Australia is concerned by recent clashes between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups elsewhere in Myanmar. The Australian Government calls on all parties to end the fighting, protect civilian populations, and allow humanitarian assistance to be delivered to affected communities. Where human rights violations have been committed, perpetrators must be held to account.

As a regional friend, Australia follows closely the human rights situation in Myanmar. We note Myanmar continues to work on democratic reform and on peace processes. Progress has been made on the discharge of children from the Myanmar armed forces and the recent renewal of instruments between the Myanmar Government and the International Labour Organization for the elimination of forced labour.

However, we are troubled by the pressures on media freedom, freedom of expression and rule of law in Myanmar, including in the case of the two arrested Reuters' journalists. Australia further encourages Myanmar to protect the rights of the LGBTI community by repealing legislation which effectively criminalises homosexual acts.

Australia would be interested to hear from the Special Rapporteur how the international community can help Myanmar address discrimination against minority groups.

**241 Words**