

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Item 2: General Debate

20 March 2019

Australian Statement

We thank the High Commissioner for her reports.

Australia notes with deep concern the High Commissioner's finding that no positive progress has been made by **Myanmar** on upholding the human rights of Rohingya in Rakhine State since the last report presented in 2016.

We call on Myanmar to enable freedom of movement for the Rohingya people, grant them access to services, ensure credible accountability for past and present human rights violations, and cooperate fully with United Nations human rights mechanisms. It is through such measures that Myanmar can create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to Myanmar of displaced Rohingya.

Australia joins concerned states in condemning actions by the Maduro-regime in **Venezuela** to obstruct access to humanitarian aid, threaten interim President Guaidó and other opposition leaders, detain journalists and suppress civil protest.

Australia urges all parties to negotiate a peaceful settlement that will lead to democratic elections as quickly as possible and restore the rule of law and human rights of the Venezuelan people.

Australia remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in **Yemen**. We note the Secretary General has said 24 million people in Yemen need humanitarian aid and protection. As Australia stated in Yemen's Universal Periodic Review in January 2019, we welcome the ceasefire agreement reached in Stockholm, but consider that its implementation must be hastened to allow humanitarian access. We are also concerned about the disproportionate impact of the hostilities on women and children. Australia urges all parties to the conflict to allow the UN monitoring mission to safely carry out its role. We further urge the parties to engage constructively in peace talks to reach a durable political settlement.

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