

Human Rights Council – 42<sup>nd</sup> session

Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar

16 September 2019

**Australian Statement**

Australia thanks the Fact-Finding Mission for its work over the last two years, and its thorough reports and papers.

Australia remains deeply disturbed by the mission's conclusions that war crimes and crimes against humanity have occurred in Myanmar. Australia condemns these atrocities in the strongest terms. We are particularly concerned by the mission's findings that there are reasonable grounds to conclude that acts of genocide have likely occurred against the Rohingya.

This final report highlights the continued discrimination, marginalisation and violence suffered by Myanmar's ethnic groups, including the Rohingya. We are concerned by groups, including with respect to sexual and gender-based violence. We are also troubled by the growing use of criminal defamation charges to silence those who report on these abuses and the broader conflict.

Australia recognises the complex challenges in Myanmar and remains committed to assisting Myanmar to continue on a path to democracy, accountability and reconciliation.

Australia commends the mission's efforts to document human rights violations and to advance accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims. We look forward to the work of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar in taking this important mandate forward.

**188 Words**