

Human Rights Council – 43<sup>rd</sup> session

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Rohingya and other minorities in  
Myanmar

27 February 2020

Australian Statement

We thank the High Commissioner for her report.

Minority groups in Myanmar, including the Rohingya, are especially affected by past and ongoing conflicts in Rakhine, Shan and Kachin States and in southeast Myanmar, and merit the Council's continued attention. We are deeply concerned by repeated recent violent incidents where civilians have been killed, harmed and displaced.

Australia again calls on all parties to exercise restraint, comply with international law and work towards peace. We know that the longer communities are displaced, the more severe the impact on people, particularly on women and girls. We encourage Myanmar to make tangible progress on sustainable solutions for return and resettlement of internally displaced persons, including through its national camp closure strategy. Further, we call on Myanmar to allow humanitarian access to affected civilian populations.

We implore Myanmar to create conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns of displaced Rohingya, including through enabling freedom of movement and granting access to services. Australia thanks the Government and people of Bangladesh for their support to Rohingya displaced from Myanmar.

We acknowledge Myanmar's own efforts to investigate violations, including through the Independent Commission of Enquiry, and continue to urge Myanmar to cooperate with international accountability efforts, including the important work of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

Australia encourages Myanmar to engage constructively with the International Criminal Court's investigation. We also welcome Myanmar's engagement in the International Court of Justice process, and urge it to comply with the Court's orders.

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