

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar 12 March 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Fact-Finding Mission and Special Rapporteur for their updates. We support your ongoing efforts. We note with deep concern the briefings by the Special Rapporteur and Fact Finding Mission, including the findings presented today. What we have heard is profoundly troubling and demands continued thorough and independent investigation. Perpetrators must be held to account.

We strongly encourage Myanmar to allow access to the Fact-finding Mission and Special Rapporteur and to engage closely with their conclusions.

Australia recognises the complex challenges Myanmar faces as it seeks to consolidate democratic reforms and achieve peace and reconciliation. As a regional friend to Myanmar, we stand ready to assist it to address the underlying issues in Rakhine State, including through implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission.

Myanmar's invitation to UNDP and UNHCR to assist in repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons is an important step towards establishing the necessary conditions in Rakhine State for the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of those displaced in Bangladesh. We recognise Bangladesh's continued generosity in hosting a large number of people in need.

Australia would be interested to hear from the mandate holders how you believe the international community can best co-operate with Myanmar to build on the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Advisory Commission.