



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## UNGA Third Committee

### Item 74: Independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar

**Statement delivered on 23 October 2018**

Australia thanks the Fact-Finding Mission for its update and reiterates its deep concern at the Mission's conclusions of crimes against humanity, war crimes and possibly genocide.

We use this opportunity, also, to thank Bangladesh for its ongoing generosity and compassion in hosting such a large number of displaced persons.

Noting the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission, Australia has imposed targeted financial sanctions and travel bans against five Myanmar military officers cited as responsible for human rights violations committed by units under their command.

Australia has consistently stressed the importance of accountability.

We encourage Myanmar to engage with the Fact-Finding Mission. We note that Myanmar has appointed a Commission of Enquiry and we also strongly encourage the Commission of Enquiry to examine the facts and circumstances outlined in the UN Fact-Finding Mission's report.

Given the gravity of the Fact-Finding Mission's conclusions, Australia also supports new international accountability efforts.

We supported efforts at the Human Rights Council to establish an ongoing independent mechanism to pursue accountability for serious international crimes.

Australia reiterates its call on the Myanmar authorities to create conditions conducive to the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of the

Rohingya. We acknowledge the partial access granted to UNHCR and UNDP under the tripartite MoU, and urge progress toward full and effective access.

Likewise, Australia acknowledges Myanmar's ongoing efforts to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. These provide a pathway to addressing the root causes of instability in Rakhine State.

Australia will continue to support the humanitarian needs of those affected, and to work with Myanmar, Bangladesh, and our partners in the region to encourage efforts towards a long term and durable solution to the crisis in Rakhine State, and, more broadly, to consolidate democracy and secure national peace and reconciliation.