MYANMAR

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Statement before the vote by Ambassador Hau Do Suan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations
on the adoption of draft resolution no. IV: "The Situation of Human Rights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" contained in document A/74/399/Add.3
at the Plenary Session of the 74th United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 27 December 2019)

Mr. President,

My delegation will vote against draft resolution **No. IV of A/74/399/Add.3.**

This draft resolution is yet another classic example of double standards, selective and discriminatory application of human rights norms on a member country. It is purposefully crafted to exert unwarranted political pressure on Myanmar.

As I've mentioned before in the Third Committee, this draft resolution grossly mischaracterized the complex issue of Rakhine State. The draft resolution clearly did not attempt in good faith to find a peaceful and feasible solution to the complex situation of Rakhine State.

The draft failed to recognize the real situation on the ground, and refused to appreciate the efforts of the Government and the People of Myanmar in search of a comprehensive and lasting solution to the multiple challenges inherited from previous administrations since independence.

The draft resolution, as it stands, will sow seeds of mistrust and will create further polarization of different communities in the region. It would only be detrimental to the process of repatriation as well as the fragile peace and harmony in Rakhine. It would also cause more alienation between the People of Myanmar and the international community.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline one particular concern of my delegation regarding the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) as contained in the draft resolution. As my delegation has made our position very clear on several occasions, Myanmar does not

recognize IIMM or its predecessor body, the FFM. The HRC created these two unprecedented mechanisms beyond its mandate in full political intent, and in violation of human rights norms and established rules of procedure. The Council has no mandate to form such investigative mechanism of prosecutorial nature. The Council's blatant breach of its mandate and guiding principles for political purposes will set a grave negative precedent in the UN system that should not be justified by the UN General Assembly.

The budget for IIMM for the year 2020 alone is over USD 15 million. The total amount of financial allocation for the two-year period will reach nearly USD 27 millions. The UN's scarce resources should have been utilized for more meaningful purposes such as life saving humanitarian assistance or feeding millions of hungry children around the world. It is total hypocrisy to waste millions of dollars as an instrument of unwarranted political agenda of some powerful member countries against a nascent democracy with daunting challenges.

The Government of Myanmar has been taking necessary initiatives to address the accountability issues. The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) has taken about 1500 witness statements from all affected groups in Rakhine. The Commission had also interviewed military and police personnel who were deployed or stationed in the affected areas during 2016 and 2017 ARSA terrorist attacks of security posts in Rakhine. The Commission will conclude its report after collecting evidence from the alleged victims of abuse from the camps in Cox's Bazar. The Evidence Collection and Verification Team (ECVT) of the ICOE is now ready to go to Cox's Bazar at anytime. Bangladesh authorities' facilitation and cooperation are needed for the success of evidence collection which is a crucial part of accountability measures.

The Office of the Judge Advocate General has also started a court martial for allegations of human rights violation in Rakhine.

Therefore, it is critically important to refrain from any action or statement that could undermine the integrity of these ongoing domestic criminal justice processes for them to allow their course.

Mr. President,

While striving to address the root-causes of the issues in the Rakhine State, our urgent priority is to commence as soon as possible repatriation of verified displaced people from Bangladesh. The government is undertaking necessary preparations for conditions conducive for

the safe, voluntary and dignified return based on the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh. Just a few days ago, on 18 and 19 December, a high level Myanmar delegation together with ASEAN-ERAT team visited Cox's Bazar and met with displaced people and explained to them about detailed preparation concerning the repatriation process. This is the second "Go and Tell" visit from Myanmar side this year to give information to the displaced people on repatriation process. We shall continue bilateral efforts with Bangladesh to solve the humanitarian issue in accordance with the signed agreements between the two countries.

At the same time, the government is also working closely with UNHCR, UNDP, and ASEAN to facilitate the implementation of the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh on repatriation, resettlement, and development of the returnees.

While cooperating objectively with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, we shall also maintain the existing constructive engagements with the United Nations including the Security Council, Office of SRSG-CAAC and Office of the SRSG-SVC.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my government's deep appreciations to our friends in the region who have been helping us in every way possible in our efforts to address the humanitarian problems in Rakhine State.

We shall be relentless in our continued efforts to address distrust and fear, prejudice and hate, poverty and insecurity among communities in Rakhine. We shall steadfastly uphold our commitment to a lasting peace, rule of law, human rights and sustainable development for all citizens as we move forward to build a democratic federal union.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, my delegation wishes to express its most sincere appreciations to those delegations standing firm on their principled position and voted against, abstained or not participated in the voting on this discriminatory draft resolution in the Third Committee.

Once again, I would like to call on all delegations to stand together with us today and oppose politicization of human rights by casting negative vote on the draft resolution **No. IV of A/74/399/Add.3**.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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