MYANMAR

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General Statement by Ambassador Hau Do Suan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations
on the draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.29 "The Situation of Human Rights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar"
at the Third Committee of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 14 November 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

It is most regrettable that this Committee is once again considering a draft resolution that is politically motivated and extremely biased with total disregard to the country concerned. My delegation utterly rejects the draft resolution **A/C.3/74/L.29** entitled "The Situation of Human Rights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar," tabled by the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation(OIC) and the European Union(EU).

Therefore, my delegation calls for a vote on this resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

This draft resolution grossly mischaracterized the complex issue of Rakhine State. The title of the resolution itself is a clear testimony to the true intent and biased attitude of the co-sponsors in drafting the resolution. The situation in Rakhine State is neither an issue of religious persecution nor an issue of driving a community out of the country. It is a complicated political and economic issue involving cross-border migration, poverty, lack of rule of law and security. This resolution will lead to further polarization and escalation of tensions among different religious communities in the country, resulting in further aggravated trust deficit. It requires time and space to build trust and harmony among the communities.

The present draft resolution, like previous years, is subjective, intrusive and above all, unconstructive. The draft contains many elements based on unbalanced reports including sweeping allegations from the orchestrated report of the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar(FFM).

The poorly organized eight-page long resolution is just another statement which attempts to demonize Myanmar and neglects the monumental task that the Government of Myanmar is carrying out to address the issue in a peaceful and sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman,

We share the concerns over the humanitarian situation and we will not shy away from taking responsibility to address it. We are also determined to address the root causes of the displaced people in Rakhine State. In this regard, I wish to recall that soon after taking the office, the democratic government of Myanmar had initiated a historic and bold step to set up the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by the late Dr. Kofi Annan to find a lasting solution to this long-neglected problem.

Unfortunately, on the very day the Commission presented its recommendation, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) launched multiple armed attacks on dozens of security posts in Northern Rakhine. The terrorist attacks triggered mass out-flow of people to Bangladesh. The international community should not neglect the fact that ARSA was the real culprit of causing the massive displacement.

Nonetheless, the Government of Myanmar has put top priority to addressing the humanitarian issue in Rakhine State and implementing early repatriation of displaced people. The government is undertaking necessary preparations for conditions conducive for the safe, voluntary and dignified return based on the bilateral agreements reached with Bangladesh. The government is also working closely with UNHCR, UNDP, and ASEAN to facilitate the implementation of the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh on the repatriation, resettlement, and development of the returnees.

At the same time, we have been implementing the recommendations of the Annan Commission to address the root causes of the problem in Rakhine.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Myanmar has taken the issue of accountability very seriously. The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICoE) was set up in July 2018 and tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terrorist attacks by ARSA, to seek accountability and reconciliation. The Commission's Evidence Collection and Verification Team (ECVT) will soon be visiting Cox's Bazar to collect statements and evidence from the alleged

victims residing there. The Commission will submit its report to the President with its findings, recommendations and way forward.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar steadfastly opposes country-specific resolutions which are contrary to the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity in addressing human rights issues. We strongly believe that the best way to promote and protect human rights is through constructive cooperation and engagement rather than confrontation and coercion.

Adoption of this draft resolution will neither contribute in any way to solving the current humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State nor offer a practical answer to the root causes of the problems. It will only create a hostile atmosphere with greater polarization and exacerbate the already complicated situation in Rakhine.

Therefore, I would like to urge all delegations to stand together with us on principle and oppose politicization of human rights by casting negative vote to the draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.29.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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