MYANMAR

Statement of H.E. U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations as explanation of vote before the vote on Agenda Item 72(C) "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar" (Draft resolution V of A/72/439/Add.3) at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (24 December 2017)

Mr. President,

My delegation reiterates its rejection of the draft resolution-V entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar" as contained in document A/72/439/Add.3.

We have time and again stated in unequivocal term our strong objection to the discriminatory and selective application of overlapping multiple actions being taken unfairly against my country in the name of human rights under the various UN mechanisms.

My delegation has voted against this draft resolution L.48 in the Third Committee, and will continue to do so in the General Assembly today because it contravenes the established UN procedures and universally accepted principles in addressing human rights issues of a member country. This draft resolution is subjective, politically motivated and crafted with the blatant intention to exerting unwarranted political pressure on Myanmar.

Adoption of this resolution will not help promote human rights in Myanmar. More importantly, it will not contribute to solving the protracted and complex situation in Rakhine State. This futile exercise will only lead to further polarization and escalation of tensions among different communities inside the country and beyond.

We are also seriously concerned over the intensifying orchestrated demonization of the Government and the security forces of Myanmar with deliberate intention to tarnishing the image and integrity of our leadership. Highly dramatized and unverified human rights allegations as well as irresponsible remarks made by some countries, human rights groups and certain heads of UN agencies are sowing seeds of hatred and mistrust among different religious communities inside Myanmar and beyond the region.

The continuing provocative actions, the chorus of incitement, inflammatory rhetoric and bias media portrayal of the issue of Rakhine State must be stopped to de-escalate tension and to bring back normalcy to the lives of all communities in the affected areas.

Mr. President,

Myanmar takes primary responsibility for addressing the complex and challenging issue of Rakhine State. However, these challenges cannot be overcome overnight and by Myanmar alone. Myanmar's efforts must be buttressed by understanding and support of the international community.

As such, the Government of Myanmar has been striving relentlessly to address the immediate humanitarian, security and socio-economic needs as the consequence of the 25 August terrorist attacks perpetrated by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). At the same time the Government is continuing its efforts to building peace, harmony and sustainable development of Rakhine for the benefit of all communities.

Now, violence has ceased in Maungdaw areas. Humanitarian assistance has been provided to all affected families through Red Cross Movement in coordination with the Government and the ASEAN AHA Centre.

We have already agreed on the Terms of Reference to set up a Joint Working Group with Bangladesh, and repatriation process will begin before the end of January 2018 in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner.

We have begun implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Rakhine Advisory Commission (The Annan Commission) as a road map to addressing the root causes of the Rakhine issues.

Mr. President,

As a responsible member of the United Nations, Myanmar has accepted and accommodated the UN special missions appointed under various mandate with the objective to building constructive engagement based on mutual respect and cooperation in promotion and protection of human rights.

Over the past three decades Myanmar has extended its full cooperation to successive Special Rapporteurs appointed by Human Rights Council, UNSG's Special Advisors and other special mandate holders.

Myanmar is also working closely with the UN Secretariat to establish a constructive partnership in our quest for peace, reconciliation and sustainable development in Rakhine State. The recent successful visit of SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflicts Ms. Pramila Patten is a clear manifestation of Myanmar's sincere desire to work with the UN. We will continue to do so in future in good faith. We believe that mutual respect and constructive cooperation will only bring about positive result.

Mr. President,

Regarding the situation of Rakhine and the humanitarian issue the Security Council had held eight meetings since March this year with adoption of a PRST. The Human Rights Council at its 34th session adopted a resolution and appointed an international fact finding mission regardless of existing Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar. Once again on 5 November, the Council held a special session and adopted another resolution. Now, here in the General Assemble, the Third Committee has adopted another resolution L.48 on the very same issue.

Mr. President,

All these sequential events are beyond reasonable actions for promotion and protection of human rights in a country. There is a strong ulterior political motive behind these developments. Moreover, we shall not be obliged to accept a country specific resolution on human rights initiated by countries with malicious intent whose human rights records are far from perfect.

The present draft resolution in question represents nothing but an evidence of the attempt by some countries to abuse the United Nations to impose their political agenda on Myanmar. The draft resolution will not contribute to solving the current humanitarian problem or the complex issue of Rakhine State. Exerting undue political pressure and coercive measures will only bring negative results and exacerbate the situation on the ground.

The Government and people of Myanmar are united in our unswerving resolve to address the issue of Rakhine State. We shall not be deterred by any external interference in our effort to bring peace, harmony and development in Rakhine State.

The Government of Myanmar wishes to express its profound appreciations to all countries that have supported Myanmar by rejecting this resolution in the Third Committee. We would like to urge all delegations to do the same today, and vote against this politically motivated country specific resolution on Myanmar.

I thank you.

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