MYANMAR

Statement by H.E. U Hau Do Suan,

Ambassador/ Permanent Representation of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

at the Security Council Briefing Session on Myanmar

(New York, 12 December 2017)

<u>as delivered</u>

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
10 E. 77TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10075 • TEL. (212) 744-1271 • FAX (212) 744-1290

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Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

My delegation thanks Under Secretary General Mr. Jeffery Feltman for his briefing this afternoon on development in Rakhine State since adoption of the Security Council PRST on November 6, 2017. Mr. Feltman has reflected in his briefing the efforts of the Government of Myanmar in response to the challenges the country is facing, concerning Rakhine State. We appreciate the constructive approach adopted by the Secretary-General in our engagement. We will continue to cooperate with the United Nations in our efforts to alleviate the current humanitarian problems as well as to achieve our objective of sustainable solution to the protracted issue of Rakhine State.

My delegation also welcomes Special Representative of the Secretary General Ms. Pramila Patten's presence in the Council today. The Government of Myanmar has accommodated the proposed visit of Ms. Patten to Myanmar from 14 to 17 December in demonstration of our genuine desire to work with the United Nations and our faith in the UN system. I am confident that the SRSG's first official visit to Myanmar will produce positive results that would pave the way for further cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

As regards, the alleged sexual violence, the Government of Myanmar has made its position clear that it will not condone any human rights abuse. If there is concrete evidence, we are ready to take action against the transgressor in accordance with the law no matter who or what he is.

Mr. President,

The Government of Myanmar has spare no efforts to address the humanitarian, security and socio-economic issues that have emerged following 25 August ARSA terror attacks against security posts in Maungdaw District.

At the same time, the Government is striving to achieve sustainable peace, harmony and socio-economic development of all communities in the state.

Let me briefly highlight some salient facts on the status of what the Government of Myanmar has done so far:

Cessation of violence

No major clashes with the terrorists have been reported since 5 September 2017. Moreover, most of the troops had withdrawn from Buthidaung-Maungtaw region. Public security and maintenance of law and order have been taken over by Myanmar Police Force. In order to establish rule of law and sustaining peace and security, the Police Force in Rakhine will be strengthened. The Government of Japan has accepted the request of Myanmar to give community policing training for Myanmar Police personnel in Rakhine State.

Humanitarian Assistance

The Red Cross Movement is operating in Rakhine State to address the urgent need of humanitarian assistance in affected areas shortly after violence broke out on 25 August 2017.

As of 26-11-2017, Red Cross Movement has reached out to 29,491 households in Rakhine. Apart from the emergency items, the Movement is also providing health-care services to the affected communities. Mobile clinics and health facilities are deployed. Thousands of people have also been provided with cash assistance.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) is also working with the Government of Myanmar and the Red Cross Movement to deliver humanitarian assistance. The Thai and Philippines Red Cross will soon be joining the Red Cross Movement in aid delivery.

The Union Government, in collaboration with the Rakhine State government, is trying to find ways and means for the UN agencies and international organizations to resume their activities in the region. In the mean time, WFP is delivering food assistance in Rahthedaung Township including the five remaining Muslim villages. In late October, WFP was granted permission to re-start food distribution in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Township. Moreover, WHO is also providing medical support channeling through the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Youth Humanitarian Coordination Group was formed with youth volunteers for efficient distribution of humanitarian aid to all the affected communities. The programme officially commenced on 6 November 2017 with the participation of youth from different regions across the country. Each group will consist 20 youths and will conduct 20 days of humanitarian works in the Maungtaw District.

Repatriation

On 23 November 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh signed the Agreement on the Arrangement for voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons from Rakhine State.

According to the Arrangement, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be formed within three weeks of signing. We are working on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the JWG. We have now agreed to meet in Dhaka on 19 December to finalize the TOR and to establish the JWG. After formation of JWG, repatriation process will start within two months from the date of signing the Agreement on the repatriation arrangement.

Two reception centers at Taung-pyo-lat-wel and Nga-Khu-ya and one drop-in center at Hla Phoe Kaung have been set up. The reception centers will provide basic services such as health, water, and sanitation, gender inclusive security and safety, education and transportation to the place of origin. Application forms for returnees have been sent to Bangladesh side. The returnees will be temporarily accommodated in reception camps and will be resettled later in their original abodes or nearest place.

At the request of the Hindu Community in Myanmar, the Government has requested the Bangladeshi Government for early repatriation of more than 500 Hindu refugees. However, Bangladesh has indicated their intention to include them in the first batch of returnees together with other Muslims.

Implementation of the recommendation of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

The Government of Myanmar has embraced the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State as a road map to solving root causes of the problem of Rakhine State and achieving sustainable peace and development for all. The Government is committed to implementing the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission as well as other recommendations made by the Maugtaw Region Investigation Commission.

To this end, the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was formed on 12 September 2017. The Ministries concerned have already started implementation process in various areas. The progress of the implementation process was released to the public every four months.

I am pleased to inform members of the Council today that the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendation on Rakhine State has been formed on 8 December. The Board comprises 5 well respected international members and 5 members from Myanmar. The Advisory Board will give necessary independent advisory opinion for the Committee to be able to effectively implement the recommendations in consonant with situation on the ground.

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development (UEHRD) was launched in October 2017 as a national initiative to address the issue of the Rakhine State after August 2017 terrorist attacks.

The three main tasks of the Uninon Enterprise both for short and long-term are: (1) repatriation and effective provision of humanitarian aid; (2) coordinate resettlement and rehabilitation efforts; and (3) socio-economic development and durable peace.

The work of the Union Enterprise complements the work of the Committee on Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. It is working closely with the private sector as well as the civil society. It also collaborates with the Government organizations at the union and regional levels.

The Union Enterprise is undertaking infrastructure development and construction in preparation for the repatriation process. It is also assisting distribution of humanitarian assistance.

For the long-term development of the region, the Union Enterprise is encouraging and inviting investment to create job, to generate income thereby upgrade the livelihood of the people. As a result, Maungdaw Special Economic Zone has been established recently to boost cross border trade with Bangladesh.

We welcome international partners, donor agencies, United Nations Organizations to participate in its process.

Mr. President,

The Security Council adopted PRST on Myanmar on 6 November. Just barely over a week after the adoption of the PRST, the Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted by a vote almost an identical draft resolution entitled "The situation of human rights in Myanmar" (A/C.3/72/L.48).

Again on 5 December, exactly a month after the PRST, the Special Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted by a vote another draft resolution entitled "The situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar"

Mr. President,

We have stated in unequivocal term our objection to the discriminatory and selective application of overlapping action against my country in the name of human rights under the various UN mechanisms. This pattern of exerting undue political pressure and coercive measures will not bring any positive result.

The words “ethnic cleansing” and “crime against humanity” should not be used lightly without concrete evidence and final legal determination.

We also have serious doubt about the attitude of some members in the Council who repeatedly refuse to call my country by its name properly. This behavior of arrogance and hostile behavior will not contribute to constructive cooperation.

Notwithstanding all these, Myanmar as a responsible member of the UN, has never failed to maintain its relationship with the UN. We always choose the path of engagement and cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect.

My delegation is working closely with members of the Council as well as with the UN Secretariat to establish a constructive partnership in our quest for peace, reconciliation and sustainable development in Rakhine State. We will continue to do so in the spirit of cooperation.

On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I would like to express our sincere appreciations to members of the Council who have demonstrated understanding of the complex challenges we are facing today. We believe that mutual understanding and constructive cooperation will only bring about positive result.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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