

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with High Commissioner for Human Rights on Rohingya 4 July 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner for his update. The widespread abuses in Rakhine State are deeply concerning and demand thorough, credible and independent investigation. We welcome Myanmar's decision to allow access to the UN Special Envoy on Myanmar, and urge Myanmar to extend cooperation to the Special Rapporteur and Fact-Finding Mission without delay.

Perpetrators of the human rights abuses that have occurred in Rakhine State must be held to account. We welcome Myanmar's establishment of an Independent Commission of Inquiry, and look forward to further details about its operation.

Australia commends Bangladesh's continued generosity in hosting large numbers of displaced people. Australia continues to support the humanitarian efforts there and we welcome the international assistance provided to support Bangladesh. We commend Myanmar, UNHCR and UNDP on concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on repatriation of Rohingya from Bangladesh. Australia is willing to work with Myanmar to create conditions conducive to safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable returns and calls on all parties to allow unfettered humanitarian access to Rakhine State.

We stand ready to assist Myanmar to work towards a peaceful, sustainable solution to the crisis, including through support for implementation of the Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission recommendations.

Australia would be interested to hear from the High Commissioner how the international community might best continue to support progress in Rakhine State.

219 Words