

Human Rights Council – 41st session

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
10 July 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner for her update. We remain deeply concerned about the lack of progress made towards upholding the human rights of Rohingya in Rakhine State since her last report.

Australia remains concerned by ongoing conflict in Rakhine State, which is affecting civilians in many communities. We call on the Arakan Army and Myanmar military to cease hostilities, exercise restraint, respect international humanitarian law and uphold commitments to dialogue for peace. The current violence makes finding a lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis even more difficult.

A sustainable solution requires Myanmar to create conditions conducive to the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of displaced Rohingya, including by lifting discriminatory restrictions on freedom of movement and granting equal access to services. Further implementing the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission is vital in this regard.

Australia recognises these are complex challenges, and is committed to working with Myanmar, Bangladesh and other partners towards a long-term and durable solution to the Rohingya crisis. We welcome ASEAN involvement in these efforts.

Those responsible for human rights violations must be held to account. Australia supports the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and reiterates its call for Myanmar's Government and Independent Commission of Enquiry to cooperate fully with the mechanism once operational.

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