

Please check against delivery

40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Agenda item 2: “Country reports or oral updates of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General (Rohingya people in Rakhine State of Myanmar)”

Statement on behalf of the OIC

(20 March 2019)

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States thank the High Commissioner for her Report which was mandated by an OIC sponsored resolution adopted during its 27th Special Session.

The OIC countries are concerned that the report confirms that, despite the signing of Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral repatriation arrangement, not a single displaced Rohingya has returned so far. Myanmar’s claims of addressing concerns like safety and security, protection of fundamental rights including citizenship and ensuring accountability of perpetrators, are therefore not tenable.

We are deeply concerned at the ongoing grave human rights violations and atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya and the continued lack of access, including humanitarian access, to Rakhine State. It is regrettable that this minority population continues to be abjectly discriminated against, on the basis of race, religion and origin in all spheres of life. The OIC reiterates its concern that the issue of citizenship, which is one of the root causes of the crisis, has not been addressed by Myanmar.

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States also urge the Government of Myanmar to

- a) grant immediate, safe and unhindered access to UN agencies and their partners, as well as other international organizations including Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the OIC
- b) fully implement all recommendations of Kofi Anan Commission, including by commencing the process of resumption of citizenship of

Rohingyas, in a time bound manner, including through a review of the 1982 Citizenship law

- c) take concrete steps to address the root causes of discrimination, hate speech and xenophobic rhetoric against Rohingyas and other Muslims in the country
- d) take firm steps to immediately end the violence against the Rohingya Muslims and adopt tangible measures to create conducive environment in Rakhine State to enable safe, voluntary and dignified return of the displaced Rohingyas to the places of their origin in Myanmar
- e) cooperate with international community to ensure accountability of alleged perpetrators of grave human rights abuse in Rakhine State of Myanmar

Mr. President,

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar deserves continued attention of international community and the UN system. The OIC reiterates its readiness to work together with all stakeholders, including Government of Myanmar, to end human rights violations against the Rohingya and for their sustainable, safe, dignified, peaceful and voluntary return and rehabilitation to their homes in Myanmar.

I thank you.