

Human Rights Council 38th session

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Rohingya

4th July 2018

National Statement by Ireland

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU:

Mr. President,

Ireland expresses its sincere thanks for this latest update on the situation in Rakhine State and the plight of the Rohingya community. Ireland shares the High Commissioner's deep concern for those who have fled Rakhine State as well as for those who have remained.

Ireland welcomes the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and the UNHCR and UNDP as an important first step in seeking to create conditions conducive to enabling refugees to return to their places of origin. However, we share Special Rapporteur Lee's concern that the voices of the refugees concerned be heard as this process advances.

While recognising these initial steps, addressing and remedying the root causes of this conflict remains critical to long term success. Full implementation of the Annan Commission recommendations are central to this. Key also is the establishment of robust investigative and accountability mechanisms for the serious human rights violations that have been extensively reported. Ireland again calls on Myanmar to engage with the Special Rapporteur and Fact Finding Mission to enable a full and transparent investigation which ensures that any perpetrators may be brought to justice.

Ireland remains deeply concerned at the ongoing detention of journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone. Freedom of expression and a free press are cornerstones of any democracy and we urge Myanmar to uphold these rights and to release them without delay.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Can you provide any further information on the recent Memorandum of Understanding and on the expected next steps in this regard?