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Statement by Myanmar Delegation
Permanent Mission of Myanmar
Agenda item. 5 After violence breaks out — essential measures
for
resolution, protection and security
at the Seventh Session of the Forum on Minority Issues
Geneva, 26 November 2014

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to make a few comments on the draft recommendations for post-violence situations.

- The recommendation contained in para 71 should highlight that the work of humanitarian actors be guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- In connection with para 78, we should be mindful that a fundamental principle of international law requires that national remedies have to be exhausted before resorting to international mechanisms like establishing the UN commissions of inquiry.
- Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to highlight the role of the international community in the aftermath of violence. [It is vital and necessary for the international

community to understand the root causes, sensitivity, historical background and complexity of violence.] Taking actions without having sufficient knowledge of the violence can only be counter-productive and make a situation unredeemable.

- For instance, when the inter-communal violence broke out in Raithine State two years ago, it was incorrectly portrayed as if the attacks and discrimination were made against one community by the other. In fact, the incident was triggered by ugly crimes and both communities suffered. Myanmar is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country. The State Constitution does not allow discrimination based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth.

Today, one of the parties who comes from Myanmar clearly proves the fact that everyone who meets the criteria of the 1982 Citizenship Law has been granted citizenship and enjoyed the rights and freedoms in accordance with the existing laws. The 1982 Citizenship Law was born out of necessity without targeting any particular group.

- Nonetheless, my delegation would like to reiterate our long standing position against the use of the word "Rohingya", which has never existed in our ethnic history.
- We are aware of the human rights principle of "self-identification" although it has not existed as a right under international law. Following this principle should not be at the cost of placing obstacles in finding a durable solution.
- When the international community look at the situation after the violence, it is critical to differentiate the people who would like to maintain harmony and those who provoke further violence with unacceptable demands.
- The Government has been working very hard to close the gaps in Rakhine State with the cooperation of those from both the communities who would like to maintain harmony and peaceful co-existence. The international community should follow suit if it is genuinely committed to support Myanmar in resolving the issue.
- My delegation observes that this is the second year that the forum brought the same issue to this busy room. However, my delegation doubts whether we have paid sufficient attention to most urgent issues like preventing atrocity crimes committed by the group so-called ISIS against minorities in their controlled areas; and whether this august forum has made meaningful discussions to stop such ongoing heinous crimes.

- I thank you, Mr. Chair.