

Statement by
His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United
Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Item 4: Interactive Dialogue on HC Report on Myanmar
51st Session of the Human Rights Council
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Thank you, Mr. President,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of OIC under this agenda item.

The Maldives thanks the High Commissioner for the oral update and for the report on Myanmar.

Mr. President,

As we mark the fifth anniversary of the Myanmar military's attack on the Rakhine State, the important work of the OHCHR remains more crucial than ever. We welcome the visit by the former High Commissioner to Cox's Bazaar in August this year and we join the call to ensure a safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingyas to their home.

Mr. President,

Maldives is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in Myanmar. We call on the Myanmar military to immediately halt the use of violence against civilians, including persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, and to allow the people of Myanmar to exercise their rights, including their right to freedom of expression and assembly. We urge the Myanmar military to fully cooperate with the OHCHR and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, with a view to delivering justice to the Rohingyas.

Mr. President,

We welcome the recent decision of the ICJ to dismiss the preliminary objections of Myanmar and proceed to consider the merits of the dispute. We reaffirm our intention to intervene in the case in support of The Gambia, working closely with other intervening States. Before I conclude, I would like to ask the High Commissioner, what are the concrete steps that would be taken by OHCHR to assist the Rohingyas, after the visit of the former High Commissioner to Cox's Bazaar.

I thank you.