

Human Rights Council  
19<sup>th</sup> Regular Session  
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar  
12 March 2012

Statement by Nigeria

Madame President,

The Nigerian Delegation would like to commend and thank the Special Rapporteur for his methodical, comprehensive and encouraging Progress Report on Myanmar. We also commend him for establishing a trusting and constructive relationship with the Government of Myanmar that has allowed for a conducive environment to carry out his mandate.

We are highly encouraged by the generally positive outlook of the report. The steady and growing system-wide reforms being carried out by the Government of Myanmar represent a welcome development that has had a positive impact on the human rights situation in the country as well as the prospects for national reconciliation.

We commend the authorities of Myanmar for these important achievements and urge them to continue along this path of establishing a working democracy with credible institutions that ensure the full enjoyment of all fundamental freedoms and human rights for the good people of Myanmar.

We call on the Government of Myanmar to build on these encouraging steps by ensuring that the forthcoming by-elections in April 2012 are free, fair, inclusive, transparent, and credible.

Madam President,

We note the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur, and the expressed risk of backtracking on the progress made on the human rights challenges faced by the country, as well as the situation of ethnic minorities, and measures to ensure justice, truth and accountability. We urge the Government of Myanmar to guard against this in order to preserve the important gains already made.

Madame President,

We appreciate the challenges faced by the Government of Myanmar in building credible and trusted democratic institutions after more than five decades of military dictatorship. We encourage the Government of Myanmar to continue to remain engaged with the international community, especially the United Nations, and to obtain whatever assistance it might need to support its efforts to uphold and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all of its citizens.

Finally, Madame President, we endorse the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur and call on the Government of Myanmar to take necessary measures to act on them.

I thank you.

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