

**STATEMENT  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Item 4 : Interactive Dialogue with  
The Special Rapporteur on Myanmar  
12 March 2012**

Madame President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report and would like to give the following comment on the current situation in Myanmar.

From the very beginning, the situation in Myanmar had been the subject of animated discussions in the councils of ASEAN, both ministerial and summit levels. Despite its critical engagement with Myanmar, ASEAN had nevertheless made a conscious deliberate decision to give Myanmar the policy space to pursue its own roadmap to democracy. The roadmap to democracy that Myanmar has since developed and pursued has now left the station and it is the turn of the International Community to give Myanmar the necessary policy space and the wherewithal to allow it to take all the necessary measures to push democracy and the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights to full realization.

Our delegation strongly believes it is time to reconsider the HRC's country resolution that has contributed little to the development of Myanmar's homegrown democracy roadmap. It would, thus, be most appropriate for the HRC to call for an end to economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures that have proven to be ineffective. The Human Rights Council is well aware that economic sanctions have deleterious effects on the general welfare of the people of target countries, including their full enjoyment of human rights and the right to development.

Madame President,

It is time to give the people of Myanmar a break from economic sanctions and a chance at a better life through economic development that would provide an environment conducive to the promotion, protection and enjoyment of all human rights – economic, social, cultural, civil and political.

Madame President,

A new day is breaking in Myanmar. In Geneva, spring is in the air. Let us allow the grass to grow and the flowers to bloom.

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