HRC 5th Special Session
Human Rights situation in Myanmar

Statement of the Czech Republic
Delivered on 2nd October 2007

Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the EU and it would also like to join those previous statements acknowledging the fact that this Special Session has been convened in urgent reaction to the alarming situation in Myanmar. As it has happened thanks to the prompt and strong cross-regional support, it is a promising proof of the Human Rights Council's commitment to its fundamental mission.

In the context of the statement of the EU as well as the text of the proposed resolution itself, addressing the situation in a complex way, the Czech Republic wants to point out a few important characteristics of the recent escalation of violence in Myanmar. People of Myanmar keep calling for recognition of their fundamental rights by the rulers of their country that they have never chosen to represent them. In spite of facing long-term, serious human rights violations perpetrated by self-appointed government, its far-reaching lacks of responsibility, devastating economic mismanagement, the people of Myanmar keep protesting in a non-violent manner. The international community cannot neglect such a demonstration of the commitment to peace, order and justice.

It is still not known how many people the government troops and their supporters in this uneven struggle have killed. It is now the ultimate responsibility of the international community to move the government of Myanmar to stop killings, beatings and arbitrary detentions, to investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators and their executives, to release all political prisoners and detainees.

The international community has to follow closely the situation of emergency in order to stand by, ready to prevent rulers of Myanmar to use protests as the pretext of further, perhaps even more dreadful repressions.

I thank you Mr. President.