Mr. President!

1. Germany aligns itself with the statement made by the Portuguese Presidency on behalf of the European Union. We urge the government of Myanmar to desist from violence against peaceful demonstrators, to engage with all different components of the Myanmar society in an open and inclusive dialogue towards genuine national reconciliation, democratisation and the establishment of the rule of law and to release all political prisoners, including Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi.

2. Like others, Germany is deeply concerned about the current developments in Myanmar. Freedom of speech as well as freedom of assembly are fundamental human rights that have to be respected and protected by the government of Myanmar and not suppressed.

3. Germany unequivocally condemns the violent suppression of peaceful protests in Myanmar. We join the voice of those who urge the government of Myanmar to immediately desist from violence against peaceful demonstrators, to engage with all different components of the Myanmar society in an open and inclusive dialogue towards genuine national reconciliation, democratisation and the establishment of the rule of law and to release all political prisoners, including Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi.

4. Germany supports the mission of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy Mr. Ibrahim Gambari who is currently in Rangoon. The Myanmar authorities should seize the opportunity to fully cooperate with the UN Special Envoy and his mission and ensure that his visit is successful.

5. We encourage regional facilitators to use their influence to prevent further bloodshed and facilitate the implementation of the road map to democracy including setting up specific dates for its next steps.

6. Mr. President.

The Human Rights Council has the mandate to react upon human rights violations like the ones currently occurring in Myanmar. We therefore fully support that the Human Rights Council holds a Special Session on this issue. The Human Rights Council must actively address the human rights situation in Myanmar. Consequently, we absolutely support the draft resolution being introduced today by the Presidency of the European Union.

Thank you, Mr. President.