

HRC 5th Special Session – Human Rights situation in Myanmar

Statement by Latvia – Amb. DANIS MAZEIKS

Mr. President,

First of all this delegation would like to align itself fully with the statement on behalf of the European Union.

Latvia is glad that it was possible to convene the Human Rights Council at a short notice to react to the events in Burma/Myanmar. This attests to the potential and to the credibility of the Council as a voice for human rights. In this respect we are also encouraged by the broad cross-regional support for the convening of the special session.

The recent peaceful demonstrations of the Burmese people have shown the strong wish of the people for democratic development of their country. Latvia, whose rapid change from totalitarian oppression to democracy started with peaceful demonstrations like these, considers it to be particularly important that the international community maintains its involvement.

Latvia is certain that national reconciliation and democratic change would eventually bring broader change, including much needed improvement of the economic situation in Myanmar. For this the renewal of the functioning of the Parliament and possibilities for the opposition to voice its concerns is crucial. As a first step, we call upon the Government of Myanmar to release the political prisoners and persons detained following the recent demonstrations.

Latvia appreciates the constructive involvement of the countries of the region in the situation. We hope that this engagement of neighbouring countries will continue.

The United Nations and the Human Rights Council have an important role to play in Burma. In particular, we call on the Government of Myanmar to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Prof. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro.

that has been
We hope that the outcome of this session will lead to concrete steps for improvement in Burma. We support the draft resolution ~~to be~~ tabled and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Thank you, Mr. President.