

Resumed Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council

Statement by India: Myanmar

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro for his report and presentation on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

2. Myanmar is a close and friendly neighbour with whom we share multifaceted and traditional linkages of geography, culture, history and religion. We, therefore, attach importance to our relations with Myanmar and developments in that country are of direct concern to us.

3. In connection with the recent developments in Myanmar, India has consistently maintained that all initiatives taken in this connection should be forward-looking, non-condemnatory and seek to engage the Government of Myanmar in a non-intrusive and constructive manner. This was our approach during the consideration of the situation by the Human Rights Council at its fifth special session. We believe that such an approach will also support the UN Secretary General's Good Offices and his Special Advisor Mr. Ibrahim Gambari's ongoing dialogue with Myanmar.

4. In our interactions with the Government of Myanmar, we have impressed upon them that the process of political reform and national reconciliation should be taken forward expeditiously and should be inclusive and broad based to include all sections of society including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the various ethnic nationalities.

5. India supports the efforts of the UNSG's Special Advisor Mr. Ibrahim Gambari to engage the Government of Myanmar on behalf of the international community to facilitate the process of reconciliation. We have maintained a dialogue with both Government of Myanmar and the UN

Special Advisor. We are encouraged by the recent positive steps being taken by the Government of Myanmar towards initiating a dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We also recognize positively the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by Government of Myanmar in organizing the visits of Mr. Gambari and Mr. Pinheiro. The effort of the international community and the Human Rights Council should be to encourage and build upon this spirit of cooperation. We look forward to a forward-looking, positive outcome of our deliberations.

Thank you.