



*Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali
Ginevra*

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – HRC RESUMED 6TH SESSION (10-14 DECEMBER 2007)

STATEMENT BY ITALY

Thank you, Mr. President

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

At the outset, let me express our warmest thanks to Professor Pinheiro for his comprehensive report on his recent mission to Myanmar.

Let me also recall that Italy fully supported the convening in last October of a Special Session devoted to the Human Rights situation in Myanmar, to respond to a situation that indeed required our urgent attention. We were pleased then by the mission entrusted to Professor Pinheiro and we welcome the fact that he was allowed to visit the Country shortly after the holding of the Special Session. This is indeed a positive sign for this Council and a proof of its capacity to address concretely human rights situations that require its attention wherever necessary.

It is of paramount importance that the recommendations included in his report are fully endorsed by the Council.

Mr President,

Italy continues to follow with deep concern the developments of ~~human~~
the ~~situation~~ situation in Myanmar. With the rest of the EU, we underline that the recent

appointment of Mr. Piero Fassino as EU Special envoy for Myanmar represents an important sign of this enduring commitment.

We urge the Authorities in Myanmar to respect the fundamental human rights of all citizens, to release all political prisoners, starting with Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and detainees of these latest months, to address impunity of those responsible for present and past human rights violations.

Italy is particularly concerned with the situation of the human rights of the most vulnerable groups, especially children, and we call on the Government of Myanmar to fully comply with its international obligations in this field.

Mr. President,

We continue to believe that the role of main regional actors and neighbouring States can be extremely useful to help improve the human rights situation in Myanmar. We welcome in this respect the various initiatives undertaken by many key international ~~actors~~ *players*.

Finally, my Delegation would like to take this opportunity to stress once again that it is urgent to create the conditions for a genuinely free and fair political process that can lead to reconciliation in the Country. In this respect, we call upon the Government of Myanmar to promote a substantial and all-inclusive political dialogue with the opposition, in a constructive spirit, aimed at starting a process of democratic reforms.

I thank you Mr. President.