

Statement by Malaysia
"Follow-up to HRC Resolution S-5/1:
Human Rights Situation in Myanmar"
Tuesday, 11 December 2007

Mr. President,

We take note of the report and presentation by Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, as well as the statement by the Permanent Representative of Myanmar and the official reaction from the Myanmar Government to the report.

2. Malaysia is encouraged by the significant level of cooperation that Myanmar has extended to the Special Rapporteur during his visit to the country in November, and during the two visits undertaken by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari in the past 3 months. ~~This demonstrates~~ Myanmar's readiness for re-engagement with the international community, including the Human Rights Council, ~~And this~~ should be duly acknowledged and reciprocated with constructive approach towards Myanmar, with the hope that Myanmar will continue on this cooperative path. *If those efforts must be sustained and consolidated.*

3. Malaysia always believes that achieving national reconciliation is the key to an enduring political solution, stability, as well as economic and social progress in Myanmar for the general well-being of its people. We welcome the recent positive developments particularly the concrete steps undertaken in connection with the roadmap for transition to democracy, the commencement of contacts between the Myanmar Government and Aung San Suu Kyi and between the Government and various ethnic groups. We hope these dialogues would lead to a meaningful, substantive and time-bound political

process aimed at national reconciliation, democracy and the rule of law in Myanmar.

4. The measures taken by the Myanmar Government to address human rights concerns, especially following the tragic events in September and October are also significant. These efforts must be sustained and consolidated.

5. As a close neighbour and fellow ASEAN member, Malaysia recognizes that Myanmar needs both time and political space to deal with its many and complex challenges, including those cited in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur. In this context, we take note of the measures already being taken by the Myanmar Government and the commitment made with regard to the 17 recommendations contained in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur.

6. This Human Rights Council should respond positively to the ongoing efforts undertaken and clear commitment given by the Myanmar Government by adopting, if at all necessary, a forward-looking, constructive and consensus approach that can result in meaningful improvements on the ground for the people of Myanmar. We strongly believe that at this stage there should be no other alternative to the mechanisms of UNSG good offices and the Special Rapporteur of this Council. Malaysia will continue to work with other ASEAN countries to encourage Myanmar to maintain its engagement with these mechanisms.

Thank you.