

NORWAY

Item 4 – follow up to resolution S-5/1

Statement by minister counsellor, Beate Stiro

Mr. President,

Norway welcomes the comprehensive report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro. We fully support the conclusions and the recommendations of the report.

The long suffering and courageous people of Myanmar need our active engagement and full support in their demand of basic human rights. Continued international engagement towards Myanmar is even more important today as the international focus on the country has decreased.

Norway welcomes the access given to the Special Rapporteur during his visit to the country in November. Norway urges the State Peace and Development Council to continue their cooperation with Mr. Pinheiro and to implement the recommendations in his report.

We are especially concerned for the plight of political prisoners in Myanmar, and the many reports of informal detention centres opened after the recent crackdowns on peaceful protesters in September. The many cases of enforced disappearances are disturbing and needs to be addressed immediately.

Norway condemns the gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Myanmar. Impunity must end, rule of law must be established, all detainees and political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, must be released and a full stop to all restrictions on humanitarian access must be enforced.

We strongly encourage the Myanmar government to start an inclusive dialogue with the democratic opposition and representatives of ethnic groups as well as to fully cooperate with the UN human rights and development mechanisms.

Mr. President,

Let me also reiterate Norway's full support to the work of UN Special envoy, Gambari. We consider the work of the UN Special Envoy and the Special Rapporteur to be of crucial importance in alleviating the plight of the Myanmar people.

It is the hope of my Delegation that the Human Rights Council during this session can agree on some concrete measures in order to follow-up on the report of the Special rapporteur. We therefore support the proposal by the EU. The HRC must remain seized on the situation in Myanmar