

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Sweden under item 4  
Follow-up to resolution S-5/1 (Burma/Myanmar)**

Sweden fully aligns itself with statement made by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

Sweden welcomes the excellent report presented by the Special Rapporteur Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, and would like to thank him for his dedicated work. We also welcome the cooperation by the Burmese government in facilitating the Special Rapporteur's visit to Burma/Myanmar, and call for continued cooperation, including by means of a second visit by the Special Rapporteur to the country before the next regular session of the Council.

As is made clear by the report, widespread violations of human rights in Burma remain a great cause for concern. Although the climax of tensions which lead to the demonstrations and large-scale repression in September appears to have passed, the overall alarming level of human rights violations has remained <sup>not changed</sup> ~~unaffected~~. Among the violations reported, the assaults on the freedom of religion through arrests of clergy and raids on temples have been particularly distressing.

→ The situation of ethnic minorities and internally displaced persons remains alarming in many cases, with reports as regard the latter of forced displacement and forced labour in the construction of a new city at Nyapidaw.

Thus, the situation for human rights in Burma/Myanmar demands continued attention by the Council. A lack of attention by the Council would not only weaken the international community's ability to address the situation; it would also harm the credibility of the Council. Therefore, we look forward to the Council adopting follow-up steps to the report of the Special Rapporteur and to the work carried out since October.

Sweden will continue to call for peace and reconciliation by transparent and inclusive measures, towards a transition to a civilian democratic government ensuring full respect for human rights of all persons living in Burma.

Thank you, Mr President.