

Inteactive dialogue with the special rapporteur on Myanmar, Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro

Mr. President,

The people of Myanmar is still suffering. Our continued engagement is needed. This Council has a strong mandate to deal with the human rights of all people in all countries. We must support the demands of the Myanmar people for democratic freedoms and human rights.

Mr. Pinheiro visit to Myanmar last autumn was a positive development. We sincerely hope that the special rapporteur will be able to visit the country again soon.

- Norway urges Myanmar's *State Peace and Development Council* to continue their co-operation with Mr Pinheiro and heed the recommendations in his report
- Norway condemns the gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Myanmar. Impunity must end, rule of law established, all detainees and political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, must be released. Unimpeded humanitarian access must be enforced.
- Norway is especially concerned for the plight of political prisoners in Myanmar, and the many reports of informal detention centers established after the crackdowns on peaceful protesters last September. The many cases of enforced disappearances are disturbing and need to be addressed.
- 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. No lasting resolution to the problems of Myanmar can be achieved by excluding important stakeholders.

We would like to pose the following questions to the Special Rapporteur:

- How would you assess the current situation of political detainees in Myanmar ?
- To what extent is torture being used in prisons and detention camps ?
- How many remain in detention and/or prisons after the crackdown last September ?