

PHILIPPINE DELEGATION

Statement on Item 4: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights in Myanmar

7th Session Human Rights Council
13 March 2008

Thank you, Mr. President,

Our delegation takes note of the report of the SR on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

A significant step was taken by the Government of Myanmar when it invited the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit in November 2007. The Philippines encourages constructive dialogue and cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Human Rights Council.

Since the fifth Special Session of the Human Rights Council, we can observe some positive developments in Myanmar which we believe should be cited and further encouraged. Myanmar authorities have announced that a national referendum on the state constitution will be held in May 2008, and a multi-party elections are planned in 2010. The Government has also agreed to a visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. President,

We are encouraged by these positive steps, and would like to see even greater progress towards peaceful national reconciliation and transition to democratic government in Myanmar.

We are cognizant that this is a critical and important stage in Myanmar's development. We support the Gambari process, ASEAN's constructive engagement, and the Government of Myanmar's own national roadmap to democracy. The Council should seek to support these processes and Myanmar's continued engagement with the international community. Our shared goals should be to help the Government of Myanmar uplift and empower its peoples and prepare them for a better and brighter future.

We also call on the Government of Myanmar to continue its cooperation with relevant international and regional mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council.

Thank you, Mr. President,