Mr. Jae-bok CHANG

The Republic of Korea

March 13, 2008

Interactive Dialogue
(Myanmar – ~~12~~ 13.03.2008)

Mr. President,

I would first like to thank Special Rapporteur Mr. Pinheiro for his report and his dedicated efforts to monitor, ~~(to the fullest extent possible)~~ the situation of human rights in Myanmar. We would also like to commend ~~the hard~~ his work ~~he has done~~ over the last 7 years.

Mr. President,

~~The Republic of Korea notes with~~ To our regret ~~that~~ the ~~Government of Myanmar~~ concerned country has not, ~~to date~~, granted access to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to conduct his follow-up visit pursuant to Council resolution 6/33.

It is ~~worrisome to observe that the~~ a cause of concern to see the lack of significant improvement in ~~humanitarian~~ and human rights situation in Myanmar, ~~does not seem to be improving much~~. As noted in the Special Rapporteur's report, the men, women and children of Myanmar still experience, among others, forced displacements, land confiscations, and poor access to health and education. There are also restrictions on freedom of expression, and the activities of human rights defenders are hindered. The Special Rapporteur has yet to receive clarification and information from the government regarding people who have been detained, killed or who have disappeared.

We would like to remind Myanmar of its primary responsibility to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as to meet its people's basic needs.

Mr. President,

We welcome the Secretary General's efforts to involve the international community through the establishment of the "Group of Friends" on

Myanmar. We also note with satisfaction the recent visit of Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the access granted to him to different interlocutors. It is also our sincere hope that the government of Myanmar will maintain and intensify dialogue and cooperation with the international community, especially with the HRC.

Mr. President,

~~The Republic of Korea~~ We welcomes the planned holding of a referendum on a new constitution for the country, as part of the seven-step Road Map. However, we would like to emphasize the importance for the Government ~~of Myanmar~~ to ensure the wide participation of all sectors of the population, in particular opposition leaders and activists including Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, in the process. We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur if he expects that such recommendations will indeed be taken into account.

Because in our view, engaging in a national dialogue, open to all sectors, will ensure that the process is a participatory and legitimate one. It will also allow for a smooth process and transition towards democracy.

Thank you.