

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA, GENEVA

TENTH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

MARCH 2-27, 2009

RESOLUTION ON

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR

STATEMENT BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India's position on Myanmar has been clear and consistent. We believe that the process of political reform and national reconciliation in Myanmar should be inclusive, broad-based and expeditious. We have acknowledged the centrality of the UNSG's Good Offices and that of his Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari. The international community should engage constructively with the Government of Myanmar to support the UNSG Special Envoy and the Special Rapporteur Tomas Ojea Quintana who has, as acknowledged in his latest report, been able to establish a co-operative dialogue with the Government of Myanmar. We do not support sanctions and believe that, in the ultimate analysis, they are counter-productive.

2. In the last two months, the Government of Myanmar has facilitated visits by the UNSG's Special Envoy, the Special Rapporteur and the UNHCR during which access was granted to them to enable useful meetings and deliberations with stakeholders. It has also released a large number of prisoners, including some prisoners of conscience, renewed the Supplementary Understanding with the ILO and agreed to extend and upgrade UNHCR's scale of activities in the northern Rakhine state.

3. Given this context, Mr President, my delegation finds the draft resolution distinctly unhelpful, both in its timing and substance. Regrettably, the draft resolution, while making some acknowledgement of the improvement in the situation, has been unable to shed its condemnatory and

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intrusive tone. Rather than helping to advance the process and address the challenges identified in the Special Rapporteur's report, such language would undermine UNSG's role in Myanmar and our collective engagement with the country. Mr President, we are, therefore, constrained to disassociate ourselves from draft resolution L.28 once again. We would, however, continue to work with like-minded countries in supporting the initiatives of the UNSG's Good Offices.

Thank you, Mr. President.