

**African Group Statement**  
**Special session of the Human Rights Council**  
**on the human rights situation in Myanmar**

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Thank you Mr. President.

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

First I would like to thank the delegation of Myanmar for the information it provided to the Council regarding the current situation in the country, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar for his presentation before us today.

The African Group is committed to the purposes and principles contained in the UN Charter including developing friendly relations among nations and achieving international cooperation in solving international problems and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Furthermore, we are committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all core human rights Instruments and emphasize that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing..

In this regard, the African Group is concerned about the recent developments in Myanmar and regrets the human and material losses which ensued. We believe that the Council has a role to play to address this serious situation and to help the Government of Myanmar overcome these difficult times and reach a peaceful solution to the current crisis in a spirit of harmony and national reconciliation. In doing so, the Council must seek to engage constructively with the Government of Myanmar, steering away from any unhelpful politicization or unnecessary confrontation.

The African Group welcomes the <sup>readiness</sup> of the Government of Myanmar to address the current problem with a view to expedite the return to normalcy in the country. The African Group believes that it is incumbent on the international community, particularly the Human Rights Council, to assist the authorities of Myanmar in addressing the challenges at hand, and in promoting national reconciliation through an inclusive process ensuring the participation of all concerned parties. In addition, the African Group stands to be guided by the concerned regional groupings in assessing the situation in Myanmar, and the way forward. We encourage the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with all the relevant Human Rights Council

Mechanisms including the Human Rights Council, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar. In this regard, the African Group is encouraged by the Government of Myanmar's willingness to cooperate with the United Nations as evidenced by the recent productive visit by UN Secretary General special envoy Mr. Ibrahim Gambari and the assistance extended to him by the Government of Myanmar during that visit.

Mr. President,

Today marks the fifth special session in the short history of the Human Rights Council. These different special sessions dealt with various situations, and have had different outcomes. What they all hold in common is the desire to actively fulfill the mandate of the Council in providing protection of all human rights by means of the various mechanisms at its disposal. The credibility of the Council rests on its ability to address all these situations in an impartial, non-selective and non-discriminatory manner, without politicization or double standards. In the same vein, it is expected that the Council will strive to implement all its resolutions and decisions, especially those issued at its special sessions. The African Group believes that in doing so the credibility and legitimacy of this Council would be established and reinforced.

I thank you.

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