



PAKISTAN

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Statement

By

**Ambassador Masood Khan
Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations**

on Behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

**on the
Human Rights Situation in Myanmar**

**at the Fifth Special Session
of the Human Rights Council**

**Geneva
2 October, 2007**

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of Pakistan,
on behalf of the OIC, at the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on
"The human rights situation in Myanmar".
Geneva, 2 October 2007**

Mr. President,

We thank Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, for his report to the Council.

We have listened to the useful briefings of Mr. Nyunt Swe, the Acting Permanent Representative of Myanmar. We have also taken note of the statements of ASEAN member states. Myanmar is an active member of the ASEAN family.

The situation in Myanmar is serious and requires the Council's attention. The OIC believes that the Human Rights Council, while responding to the situation in Myanmar, should demonstrate what constructive engagement means for the promotion and protection of the human rights. No naming and shaming; no punitive sanctions; but an invitation to a government and people to engage with the international community. In this regard, we must strive towards the following objectives:

- a) seek non-violent solutions to the current crisis in Myanmar;
- b) avoid any step that would imperil the integrity of the country;
- c) deescalate rhetorical hostility against the Myanmar government;
- d) call for greater respect for human rights and aspirations of the people of Myanmar;
- e) take steps to alleviate the suffering of the people of Myanmar.

The OIC agrees with the recommendation made by several delegations that the Council's action should be forward looking. That means asking the Myanmar government to fully engage with UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser Ibrahim Gambari. Here we would like to echo the wise counsel to the Myanmar authorities to show restraint in responding to the demonstrations. The international community, as it is trying to reach out, should use its full economic leverage to help the people of Myanmar, so that the country is not isolated.

The OIC endorses the calls for pursuing national reconciliation with all parties concerned and working towards stability and harmony in Myanmar.

We also call for a unified stance by the Council. It would require a fine balance between the imperatives of a clear response to a situation and constructive engagement, with rights holders at the center.

This is not the first Special Session of the Council; nor will it be the last. Therefore, in developing a coherent response to the situation in Myanmar, the Council Members should recall how earlier Special Sessions were handled and how their outcomes are being implemented. The Council's Special Sessions should not become tools for castigating weak and vulnerable countries, while condoning impunity in case of influential members of the international community.

The Council should be mindful of the necessity to promote human rights worldwide in a non-selective manner. More innocent civilians have died in Palestine a few days ago in twenty four hours as a result of Israeli military action than in the whole of Myanmar but this has not received the same degree of attention from the media or this Council.

I thank you, Mr. President.
