

APPF28/RES/17

**RESOLUTION  
ON  
ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN PLIGHT  
OF THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE**

(Sponsored by Indonesia and Malaysia)

We the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Canberra, Australia, for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliamentary Partnerships for 2020 and Beyond*:

**Reaffirming** relevant United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolutions, including Resolutions 74/246, 73/264, 72/248, 68/242, 67/233, 66/230, and relevant United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions, including Resolutions 42/3, 40/29, 39/2, 37/32, 34/22, 31/24, 29/21, 28/23, 25/26, 22/14, 19/21, on the *Situation of human rights in Myanmar*,

**Taking into account** the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951), the *UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (1963), the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) and its *First Optional Protocol* (1966), and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR);

**Recalling** UN General Assembly Resolution 70/233 from December 2015, which recognises the Rohingya ethnic minority of Myanmar and urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure equal access to full citizenship and related rights to the Rohingya, as defined in the report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State;

**Affirming** that humanitarian crises and crimes under international law are the legitimate concern of the national parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region's sovereign states;

**Gravely concerned** with the ongoing humanitarian plight of the Rohingya people in Myanmar's Rakhine State and the displacement of approximately 745,000 people since August 2017, of whom approximately 85% are women and children, into Bangladesh;

**Noting** that it has been more than a decade since the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) adopted a resolution on the situation in Myanmar, in part regarding human rights violations in that country, at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in New Zealand in 2008;

**Cognisant** of the need for regional and international assistance to Myanmar in relation to the urgent and ongoing humanitarian and security crisis in and around Rakhine State;

**Reiterating** the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return home in safety and dignity, and in a voluntary and sustainable manner;

**Underscoring** that displaced people in Bangladesh and Myanmar are still in urgent need of basic necessities such as food assistance, water, sanitation services, health care, education, protection and shelter;



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**Aware** that the 2019 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis has not been fully funded;

**Taking into account** the completion of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar's mandate, and noting with interest the reports it submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council, and noting the mission's findings and recommendations, including priority actions to be undertaken by the international community;

**Noting** the deliberation of the International Court of Justice on the case of *Gambia v. Myanmar* concerning a request for provisional measures, which may positively contribute to the cessation of the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

**Appreciating** the constructive steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to address the situation in Rakhine State, including the setting up of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State, the Advisory Committee on Rakhine State chaired by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and the Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations against minorities in Rakhine State.

**Welcoming** ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) initiative in facilitating the repatriation process of the Rohingya refugees by building the capacity of refugee transit and reception centre, disseminating information for the refugees, and providing their basic needs.

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Call upon** the Government of Myanmar to ensure the conditions for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to their places of origin, offering dignified solutions to displacement in accordance with international law and standards, and working towards granting the citizenship status or any legal status which enable the Rohingya to empower themselves;
2. **Advance** implementation of the recommendations of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;
3. **Urge** the military and civilian authorities in Myanmar to do everything in their power to protect all civilians and uphold human rights within Rakhine State;
4. **Call on** the military and civilian authorities in Myanmar to grant full and unhindered humanitarian access to affected persons and communities in Myanmar without fear of reprisals, intimidation or attack;
5. **Encourage** relevant authorities, including APPF Member Countries, to assist humanitarian actors in providing humanitarian assistance to the forcibly displaced persons in Bangladesh, including the Rohingya refugees, and to all affected persons and communities within Rakhine State;
6. **Encourage** relevant authorities, including APPF Member Countries, more specifically to support the 2019 Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, which aims to deliver protection, provide lifesaving assistance and foster social cohesion;
7. **Emphasise** the importance of addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, for example by prioritising sexual and reproductive health services and psychosocial counselling for the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;
8. **Work** to seek full accountability in relation to individuals suspected of being involved in crimes under international law; and
9. **Promote** all efforts to build inclusive, diverse, peaceful and stable societies, and to address the root causes of the humanitarian crisis in the Rakhine State.