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## Virtual informal meeting of the General Assembly

General Assembly resolution 74/246 entitled, "The Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar"

Briefing by Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener

14 August 2020

Statement by Switzerland

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Mr. President

Let me first extend our support for the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, and her important work in Myanmar. Switzerland commends the Special Envoy for maintaining trustful relationships with the different parties in and outside of Myanmar. These relationships build the ground for engaging in a dialogue and to work towards concrete solutions.

Switzerland remains deeply concerned about the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Myanmar, especially in the states of Rakhine and Chin. Switzerland calls for the credible, transparent, impartial and independent investigation of all alleged violations of international law and to bring alleged perpetrators to justice. In this regard, we recall the importance of fostering national accountability mechanisms. Switzerland urges Myanmar to fully implement the provisional measures by the International Court of Justice and encourages Myanmar to accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. We also urge authorities in Myanmar to ensure full access to all the regions of the country for the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

While welcoming the partial restoration of internet access in Rakhine and Chin States, we encourage the full restoration of mobile internet access especially in light of the ongoing pandemic and the upcoming elections. Protecting the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and information are essential elements for the democratic transition of the country.

Armed hostilities, also in Rakhine State, have intensified since the beginning of this year, despite calls for and announcements of cease fires. We urge all parties to halt hostilities and to implement immediate cease fire. Switzerland calls upon all parties to respect international law, in particular international humanitarian law as well as human rights law. Safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for all people in need must be allowed and facilitated and non-discriminatory access to health and other services must be granted.

Madame Special Envoy,

- **How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted the return of Rohingya refugees?**
- **As your mandate is very much engaged in the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, we would like to know what influence you believe the upcoming national elections could have.**

Thank you.