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S T A T E M E N T

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the adoption of 2013 UNGA resolution on human rights situation in Myanmar

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I am very pleased with the UN General Assembly Third Committee's adoption by consensus of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar on 19 November, 2013.

The resolution welcomes the positive developments in Myanmar and the stated commitment of the Government of Myanmar to continue on the path of political and economic reform, democratisation, national reconciliation, and the promotion and protection of human rights, recognising the scale of the reform effort undertaken to date. At the same time, it expresses concern about remaining human rights violations, including the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State and repeated instances of communal violence against ethnic and religious minorities, including clashes in Kachin State. It also calls on the Government to further expand its cooperation with the United Nations, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

I am particularly pleased with the constructive approach taken by the Government of Myanmar in working closely on the text with the EU, as the main sponsor. I also appreciate the invaluable support of the co-sponsors, as well as other interested parties, in achieving this outcome.

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The adoption of this resolution by consensus, for the second year in a row, is a clear sign of the international community's commitment to supporting the reform process underway, and the aspirations of the people of Myanmar for full respect of human rights, economic and social development and lasting peace."
