

**Draft Remarks for 5th Thematic Session on
How can we address the root causes of large movements of refugees?
Duration: 2 minutes**

15 November 2017, Room-XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Mr. Co-Chair,

Bangladesh has been hosting a large number of refugees and displaced persons from Myanmar nearly over the three decades. But, the crisis has dramatically escalated since 25 August this year that resulted in "the quickest exodus from a single country since the Rwandan genocide in 1994". This is unfortunate and unacceptable as well that the displacement still continues as violence has not yet stopped in the Rakhine State in Myanmar. The decades-long cycle of violence, deprivation, persecution and displacement suffered by the Rohingya people must be addressed without further delay.

It is needless to say that this large number of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and the existing refugees has been creating unprecedented socio-economic and demographic pressure as well as security related problems to a resource-constrained and populous country like Bangladesh.

In view of such tragic humanitarian consequences, we would wish to underline the following points:

First and foremost, granting of citizenship to the stateless people in the country of origin is the key. Rohingya people of Myanmar have become one of the most persecuted minorities in the world due to the systematic denial of their citizenship repeatedly by the Government of Myanmar.

Second, there is an inevitable need to improve economy, human rights, safety and security in the country of origin. Economic deprivation, poverty and restriction on movement and livelihood opportunities in the Rakhine State have made the situation desperate for the Rohingya people.

Third, a strong political will with positive intention of implementation by the Government of the country of origin must be in place in addressing the root causes of the displacement crisis. The Government of Myanmar must show its political commitments and translate those into actions immediately to ensure the return of the forcibly displaced people from Bangladesh to their places of origin in a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable manner.

Finally, it is all the more important that the international community remains seized and stands united until or unless finding a peaceful solution to any refugee and displacement crisis in any parts of the world. We, therefore, call upon the international community to keep the Rohingya issue alive until the crisis reaches a durable solution.

I thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.