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## **Universal Periodic Review 23 – Myanmar**

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### **Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank Myanmar for its comprehensive report [and for addressing our advance questions].

We welcome the positive steps taken to improve the human rights situation since 2011. We are however concerned about the stalled progress on a number of issues over the past two years.

We make the following recommendations:

1. to restore full citizenship of the Rohingya living in Myanmar, and to ensure and protect their basic human rights, and ask the Government of Myanmar for its constructive engagement in the region on this issue.

2. to amend laws that permit the compulsory acquisition of land by private businesses so that expropriation is only permitted in cases of necessary, proportionate and narrowly construed public interest, with strong procedural safeguards

We welcome the release of one thousand political prisoners since 2011 and the president's pledge to release all remaining prisoners of conscience. However, an increase in the number of political prisoners and detained journalists since 2015 is of concern.

We welcome the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement as a step towards reaching a lasting political settlement and would like to underline the importance of ongoing dialogue with the non-signatory groups. We call on all parties to end the violence.

Thank you, Mr. President.