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Human Rights Council - 31st session
Item 6 - Adoption of the report on the UPR of Myanmar
Oral statement

Mr. President,

FIDH and its member organization ALTSEAN-Burma are disappointed by Myanmar's response to its second UPR. While we welcome the government's acceptance of recommendations it received concerning the ratification of key international human rights instruments and the reform of the National Human Rights Commission, we note that those recommendations had been made during the first UPR and have since remained unaddressed. Sadly, the review confirmed that the outgoing government lacked commitment to address the country's key human rights challenges.

We regret that the government refused to acknowledge ongoing discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities and to accept all 27 recommendations that made specific reference to Muslim Rohingya, including those that called for the protection of their rights and an end to discrimination against them.

Despite pledging to guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly and to create a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, Myanmar did not accept recommendations that called for the amendment of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law, which the authorities continue to use to arbitrarily arrest and imprison human rights defenders. The government also refused to accept recommendations that called for the release of all political prisoners.

We note that the government backtracked from its pledge to cooperate with UN mechanisms by failing to commit to issue a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures and to open an OHCHR country office. Finally, we regret that the government did not accept recommendations that called for a moratorium on all executions and the abolition of the death penalty.

We urge Myanmar's new government to take steps to implement the crucial recommendations that the country received, including those that the outgoing administration did not accept. The new administration must urgently repeal oppressive laws, eliminate discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, and hold its security forces accountable for human rights violations, including attacks against civilians and rape and other forms of sexual violence against women.

Thank you.