



**Myanmar rebuts Dhaka Declaration's reference on situation in Rakhine State,
Myanmar calls for Bangladesh's sincere cooperation to start early repatriation**

The 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Dhaka from 5 to 6 May 2018 issued the Dhaka Declaration expressing concern over alleged human rights violations by security forces in Myanmar.

The Declaration lacks balance and fairness, and fails to denounce the brutal attacks of the terrorist group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) which triggered the humanitarian situation unfolding today.

Myanmar categorically rejects the irresponsible labelling of "ethnic cleansing" or "State backed violence" to describe events in Rakhine State. More than 50% of the Muslim community, which represents a majority in Maungtaw Region, have remained in their villages.

The Government has stated time and again that no violation of human rights will be condoned. Allegations supported by evidence will be investigated and action taken in accordance with the law.

It is highly regrettable that the Dhaka Declaration did not even mention the immediate need for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Nor were there any suggestions aimed at promoting harmony and sustainable development in the Rakhine State.

As the monsoons are approaching, Myanmar is now focusing on expediting the repatriation process. To that end, Myanmar urges Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the process in accordance with the said agreement.

Myanmar stands ready to facilitate the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw,
9 May 2018.