

Detailed Recommendations - Report of the Myanmar Government Special Commission on the Rakhine State

Sr.	Section	Task	Implementation Department	Responsible Committee	Remark
1	Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Situation Temporary Shelters before the Monsoon Season.	A. While the Rakhine IDPs are adequately resettled, there have been difficulties in resettling the Bengali IDPs. The Rakhines have called for resettlement of Bengali IDPs only after verification of their citizenship. However, it is becoming extremely urgent to provide the Bengali IDPs with access to safe and secure temporary shelters prior to the monsoon season.	Ministry of Border Affair Rakhine State Government International Organizations	The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
	Resettlement.	B. There is a pressing need to address overcrowding in camps, provide access to clean water and sanitation, and take necessary precautions against other risks – such as outbreaks of disease – that can arise during the monsoon season at the Bengali IDP camps.	Ministry of Border Affair Rakhine State Government International Organizations	The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State	
	Reopening of Schools.	C. Schools should be reopened and access to education provided for students living in Bengali IDP camps.	Ministry of Border Affair Rakhine State Government International Organizations	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	

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	Food Security and Malnutrition.	D. A concerted effort is needed to plan and prepare for longer-term food security, meet immediate food shortages, and address malnutrition.	Ministry of Border Affairs Rakhine State Government International Organizations	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
	Livelihoods.	E. The Government shoulders the responsibility to meet the basic needs of the IDP populations until their livelihoods are restored. It is vital, therefore, to consider all possible means to revitalize the livelihoods of the IDP populations.	Ministry of Border Affairs Rakhine State Government International Organizations	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
	Permanent Settlement.	F. The Government should plan and prepare strategies to settle the IDPs permanently when law and order is	Ministry of Border Affairs Rakhine State	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term	

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		restored in the state.	Government International Organizations	Strategic Plans	
2	Social Kaman Ethnic Group Issue.	A. Currently, there is a disconnect in the communication channels between the Rakhine and Bengali populations. Certain Rakhine leaders – relying on the inflamed tensions and a renewed sense of prejudice – have urged, and even taken steps to prevent, the Rakhine public from conducting social and economic interactions with the Bengali population. As a result of this “social and economic blockade”, members of the Kaman ethnic group, who have traditionally worked in the education and communication sectors of the civil service, are also trapped in the IDP camps. The Government should take immediate action to meet the Kaman ethnic group’s demand to restore their freedom of movement.	Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
	Population Growth.	B. One factor that has fuelled tensions between the Rakhine public and Bengali populations relates to the sense of insecurity among many Rakhines stemming from the rapid population growth of the Bengali population, which they view as a serious threat. If, as proposed, family-planning education is provided to the Bengali population, the Government should	Ministry of Immigration Rakhine State Government Na Sa Ka (Border Immigration Head Quarter)	The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	

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		refrain from implementing non-voluntary measures which may be seen as discriminatory or that would be inconsistent with human rights standards.			
	Social Integration.	C. When reviewing the cases of Bengalis who are eligible to become citizens, the Government should screen for their ability to fully integrate into society by testing their knowledge of the country, local customs, and language. At the same time, the Government should make available educational resources that will provide information about the country's culture, traditional dress and practices, and social norms to those wanting to become citizens.	Ministry of Immigration Ministry of Home Affairs Rakhine State Government	The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
	Formation of Truth-Finding Committee.	D. On a broader level, the Government should form a Truth-Finding Committee to determine the root causes of sectarian violence between the Buddhist and Islamic communities. One of the Committee's priorities should be to find ways to prevent as well as overcome future conflict, and if necessary, delegations from this Committee should be sent to interested countries to discuss their findings.	President Office	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
3	Citizenship	A. The Government should immediately address the citizenship claims of the Bengalis. They will be able to live and coexist with the other citizens only when they themselves become citizens.	Ministry of Immigration Ministry of Home Affairs Rakhine State	The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee	

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		Likewise, they will take more interest in the recent developments in the country and live as responsible citizens only when they become citizens and can enjoy the rights and responsibilities of other citizens.	Government		
		B. The Government should address the citizenship claims of the Bengalis in a transparent and accountable manner. In dealing with stateless individuals, the Government should do so in accordance with existing laws and international norms. The government should arrange citizenship ceremonies to commemorate those who become new citizens.	Ministry of Immigration Ministry of Home Affairs Rakhine State Government	The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee	
4	Economy	A. The majority of the people living in Rakhine State rely on resource-based economic activity such as agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods, primarily due to their lack of economic opportunities and low individual productivity. There are ways to improve their earning power and benefit the state, for example with regards to agricultural development in northern Rakhine State, there is a need to distribute and grow high-grade paddy as well as high-yield paddy.	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Rakhine State Government	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
		B. The Government will have to meet the basic needs of non-citizens if they are denied livelihoods. If there is no improvement in their situation, poverty and discontent will lead to further	Ministry of Energy Ministry of Electricity Ministry of Border	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	

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		<p>unrest. The responsible administrative authorities and civil society groups should work together to: rebuild homes and revitalize communities; provide access to water and electricity; improve communication; promote economic activity and cooperation between diverse groups; and encourage good economic practices. In the strategic port area of Kyaukphyu, there is a danger of fostering local resentment or misunderstanding against the Government if the township is unable to utilize at least a portion of the natural gas from Kyaukphyu offshore development to supply electricity to the Kyaukphyu area.</p>	<p>Affairs Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p> <p>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</p>	
		<p>C. Hotel and tourism industry development should be promoted in Rakhine State, because it is steeped in colourful history and is well-endowed with fine beaches and natural beauty. Other areas of economic development may include: boat building shipyards; energy sector; fisheries and cold storage facilities; Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) activities; shrimp farming; hotel and tourism; and recreational parks.</p>	<p>Related Ministries Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</p> <p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>D. The Government should also consider ways to provide access to low-interest loans that could have a big impact on local social and economic activity.</p>	<p>Related Ministries Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</p>	

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5	Health	A. There is an urgent need for access to clean water and sanitation in the IDP camps.	Ministry of Health Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
		B. While those living in Rakhine State are unlikely to suffer from hunger and starvation, inadequate nutritional resources may lead to cases of malnutrition among young children.	Ministry of Health Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
		C. The government must make a priority of providing screening and treatment for post-traumatic stress and other mental health conditions experienced by the IDPs.	Ministry of Health Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Working Committee for Restoration of	

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				Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
6	Education	A. While the majority of the schools closed amid sectarian violence last year have been reopened for the Rakhine IDPs, the schools for the children living in Bengali IDP camps remained closed for the 2012-2013 school year. The government should plan to reopen these schools prior to the 2013-2014 school year.	Ministry of Education Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
		B. The schools with a mixed population of Rakhine and Bengali students have seen a sharp fall in attendance due to security concerns. It is critical to establish and maintain security at these schools.	Ministry of Education Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
		C. The teachers who are assigned to schools in the Bengali villages and the areas where the Rakhine and Bengali populations are in close proximity to each other are fearful to return to these schools. Therefore, it is critical to staff these schools with local teachers.	Ministry of Education Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
		D. The Government should immediately review the curricula of all religious schools and remove any inflammatory texts and teachings to better promote a sense of national pride and mutual understanding between communities. It	Ministry of Education Ministry of Religion Rakhine State Government	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee The Working	

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		is of critical importance to teach citizenship and provide civic education to all children throughout Rakhine State.		Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		E. The Government should promote literacy programs (i.e. 3R programs) for the Bengali population to learn how to read, write and speak the Myanmar language.	Ministry of Education Rakhine State Government	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
		F. The Government should develop strategies and guarantees to establish and maintain security at schools with a mixed population of Rakhine and Bengali students as well as address the security concerns of teachers at schools in isolated areas.	Ministry of Education Rakhine State Government INGOs	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
		G. In order for communities to coexist peacefully, it is important to transcend	Ministry of Education	The Security and Law Enforcement Working	

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		past racial prejudices and hatred through special education programs aimed at changing the mindset and promoting mutual understanding. The Government should develop plans to establish an FM Radio Station to broadcast these educational programs in the local languages as well as consider the future establishment of a TV Channel with similar aims.	Rakhine State Government	Committee The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
7	Religion	A. Moderate Muslim leaders from Yangon and Mandalay should be encouraged to lead the reform efforts in the Islamic religious schools in Rakhine State, especially in place of more extremist elements.	Ministry of Religion Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		B. The Government should facilitate and organize interfaith dialogue meetings between representatives of all religions to promote mutual understanding and foster respect between Buddhist and Muslim communities.	Ministry of Religion Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		C. The Government should engage with and regulate religious schools that teach extremism and incite violence. To better promote mutual understanding, the Government should form a governing body comprised of religious educators, including the Mullahs, or religious leaders, to develop and teach a tolerant curricula at these religious schools.	Ministry of Religion Rakhine State Government	The Social and Economic Development Working Committee The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	

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		D. The Government should conduct a review and inspection of all religious institutions within the Rakhine State, including Buddhist monasteries, Islamic mosques, Christian churches, Hindu temples, and individuals whose livelihoods depend on advancing religious beliefs. The Ministry of Religious Affairs should issue necessary permits only after determining that these institutions and individuals are operating within the legal framework to carry out their intended purpose.	Ministry of Religion Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
8	INGO and LNGO Interaction	A. The Government, before cooperating with any international institutions or organizations on the Rakhine issue, should first ascertain the appropriateness of the proposed interaction in the local and national contexts, as well as take into consideration the attitudes, viewpoints and opinions of the general public.	Cabinet	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations	
		B. The Government, the donor organizations, and the local experts and leaders should discuss and work together to revitalize the communities affected by the conflict. It is important for all parties involved to share the necessary information to ensure that the revitalization and humanitarian assistance programs are carried out in a transparent and accountable manner.	Union Government Rakhine State Government INGOs, NGOs and CBOs	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Working Committee for	

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				Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		C. The National Government should lead a concerted effort of local government, NGOs, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders in providing assistance to and revitalizing Rakhine State. Working together will help build mutual trust and understanding, aid in the development of strategies and programs that meet international standards, and strengthen cooperation between various entities during the implementation phase.	Union Government Rakhine State Government INGOs, NGOs and CBOs	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
9	Security and Administration	A. The Government should learn from other conflicts and establish a Conflict Management Center that has the authority to gather accurate data on the root causes of the conflict, develop appropriate courses of action to tackle the conflict, and prepare strategies to revitalize the conflict areas.	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		B. To diffuse future crises before they occur, the Government should establish an Early Warning System to obtain timely and accurate information, monitor the situation on the ground, and carry out necessary precautionary measures. Since there is still a risk of continuing conflict in the Rakhine State, the Government should maintain the current levels of security personnel. There is also a need to strengthen	Union Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and	

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		<p>cooperation among various entities within the security apparatus. In addition, the Government should establish a Special Intelligence Team composed of both the military and civilian law enforcement personnel to safeguard against potential extremist action.</p>		<p>Rule of Law</p> <p>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</p> <p>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</p>	
		<p>C. The Government should facilitate and organize community dialogues that bring together leaders and representatives from Rakhine and Bengali populations to determine the conditions under which the two communities can coexist peacefully. The Government's role in this should be limited to supportive and facilitative functions. The Government should also establish a Task Force composed of moderate leaders from both communities for this initiative.</p>	President Office	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>D. The Government and local civil society organizations should take the lead in organizing the community dialogues. International organizations wanting to facilitate these meetings must appear</p>	President Office	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p>	

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		impartial and be acceptable to both communities or else they risk antagonizing one or both communities.			
		E. The current conditions in Rakhine State call for a temporary separation of Rakhine and Bengali communities. While keeping the two communities apart is not a long-term solution, it must be enforced at least until the overt emotions subside. Those who break the law during this period must be prosecuted in accordance with the law.		The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
				The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
				The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State	
		F. Rakhine State shares a land and maritime border with Bangladesh, which is densely populated. It possesses a coastline that stretches along the Bay of Bengal and serves as a gateway to the Indian Ocean, making its geographic location important both for trade and national security. The Government should strengthen its navy and establish a Maritime Police Force to safeguard its coastline and protect its territorial waters. The combined security forces should be placed under the	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
				The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
				The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee	

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		supervision of a commander. The Government should also formulate a national security strategy on the basis of holistic and preventative approaches and paradigms.		The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		G. As Bangladesh will hold elections this December, it is advisable to monitor the developments in that country as well as the conditions near the Myanmar border. In December 2012, soldiers from the army corps of engineers were ambushed and killed by militant elements operating out of Bangladesh while constructing a fence along the border. The Commission has also received reports of other disturbing activity along the border. The Government should take necessary precautionary measures by strengthening emergency security plans and increasing the security personnel along the border.	President Office Union Government	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		H. Under the current conditions, the Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) should continue to perform administrative duties along the border areas. However, the Border Security Force should focus its energies on restoring law and order in these areas and refrain from infringing on the rights of the general public under existing laws. Even when interacting with those who break the law, the Border Security Force personnel should follow due process and	President Office Union Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		act within the legal framework. The Border Security Force personnel must avoid unlawful acts and act in their professional capacity. If any Border Security Force personnel act extra-judicially they should also be prosecuted in accordance with the law.			
		I. The Government should establish a professional riot control force to restore law and order in times of conflict. The riot control force should be well prepared, equipped, and trained in physical, psychological, and technical aspects of conflict resolution. It should be given authority to act as soon as a conflict occurs. The complex and sensitive nature of the conflict in Rakhine State necessitates conflict sensitivity training for the security personnel tasked with restoring law and order. It is equally important to provide conflict sensitivity training to military, or Tatmadaw, units that may be deployed in conflict areas.	President Office Union Government	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
		J. The Government should double the strength of the Tatmadaw, the police force, intelligence personnel, and Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) personnel assigned to Rakhine State to control and prevent further violence in Rakhine State. The security and emergency response personnel must carry out their duties lawfully and those who break the	President Office Union Government	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		law must be held accountable under existing laws.			
		K. According to Sittwe residents, there has been very little presence and participation on the part of the Union Level Ministries in responding to the conflict in Rakhine State. Specifically, there is a need for the ministries of Relief and Social Welfare, Home Affairs, and Border Affairs to play expanded roles in responding to the crisis. The need for the union-level involvement is even more pronounced when taking into consideration the limitations of the Rakhine State Government to act effectively.	Union Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		L. The Government may face accusations of prejudice and unfairness if the administrative and security personnel tasked with management and rule of law implementation are mainly of Rakhine ethnic origin. The government should strive towards a diverse staff in the administrative and security sectors in the Rakhine State.	President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
		M. A major factor contributing to the difficulty in establishing rule of law and restoring order in Rakhine State is the chronic understaffing at the departments of general administration, immigration, corrections, and the judiciary, making them ineffective as a result. Specifically, the difficulties in restoring law and	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		order in Maungdaw, a flashpoint for inter-communal tensions, can be attributed to the instigators outnumbering the security personnel. In particular, the departments of immigration, general administration, and religious affairs must be restructured and strengthened so that they can carry out their duties effectively at the grass-root level.			
		N. The natural geography and relatively poor infrastructure of Rakhine State makes quick responses a challenge. The Government should make transportation infrastructure a priority and construct roads and bridges to provide easy access to remote areas.	Union Government Ministry of Construction Ministry of Border Affairs Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	
		O. The officials who are responsible for preventing violence and restoring law and order should be entrusted also with the authority to take legal and security measures that they deem necessary. The government should also provide such officials with all the assistance and support they need.	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
		P. The Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) is made up of four different governmental agencies and is placed under the command of the Tatmadaw. The government should review and	President Office Union Government Rakhine State	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee The Working	

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		<p>reform the structure and function of the Border Security Force to create an environment in which all participating agencies can work well together. Although some people in local areas noted that the performance of the Border Security Force has improved to some extent in the wake of violence, the coordination and cooperation among the participating agencies remains weak. Given the emergency situation in Rakhine State, all security forces except the armed forces should answer to the Chief Minister of the state. In order to restore law and order effectively, all security forces must work closely with the officials responsible for civil administration. Up to now, it has been found that security forces take orders only from the relevant line ministries of the union-level government and do not follow the instructions and requests from the state government until they receive authorization from their ministerial superiors. There is a need for a mechanism that will require all security forces to work closely with the State government in undertaking needed action.</p>	Government	Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		<p>Q. Coordination and cooperation with the Bangladesh Government is essential to tackle migration problems originating from Bangladesh. Likewise, border</p>	President Office Rakhine State Government	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		<p>conflicts will require the involvement of the Bangladesh Government. In this respect, there is a need for improved bilateral communications between the Myanmar Government and the Bangladesh Government.</p>		<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p> <p>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</p> <p>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</p>	
10	Rule of Law	<p>A. Citizens and non-citizens who reside in Rakhine State have little awareness and knowledge of the Constitution, existing laws, administrative rules and regulations, and ordinances. It is vital for all inhabitants to be informed of the laws so that they can enjoy protection under these laws. It is also important to organize regular legal capacity building seminars and initiatives – possibly during each summer break - with the help and cooperation of the Rakhine State governmental agencies, students from Sittwe University, the Myanmar Bar Council, and law students from Yangon University.</p>	<p>Union Government</p> <p>Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</p> <p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>B. The Government should make it illegal for any political organization or individual to exploit the sectarian divide</p>	<p>Union Government</p> <p>Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term</p>	

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		in Rakhine State for their own benefit or to inflame tensions.		Strategic Plans The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
		C. In line with rule of law promotion efforts, when prosecuting those who break the law, the Courts should guarantee their due process rights; not distinguish them based on their race, religion or ethnicity; and treat them equally before the law. In addition, laws and regulations related to public safety and restoration of order should be circulated widely to the general public in Rakhine State.	Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
		D. The Government must take firm action against any group or individual inciting or instigating conflict or violence on the basis of race, religion, language, or culture. The existing criminal laws must be applied and enforced effectively to not only punish those who break these laws, but to serve their deterrent purpose. Also, new legislation concerning such issues should also be promulgated from time to time as the need arises.	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
11	Peaceful Coexistence	A. While the citizenship status of some of the Bengalis living in the Rakhine State remains unclear, regardless, the	Union Government Rakhine State	The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		Government and civil society organizations must protect their human rights and ensure that their security and basic needs are met. Government entities should also acknowledge the basic human rights of undocumented and illegal immigrants and deal with them in a transparent manner under existing laws.	Government	The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law	
		B. The Government must enable Bengalis who have become Myanmar citizens the opportunity to enjoy all rights associated with citizenship. The Government has the authority to infringe on the rights of all citizens in times of emergency and for national security, but it must do so lawfully. If the Government can fully safeguard the rights of individuals even in times of crisis, it would avoid many unwanted criticisms.	Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
		C. The Government must safeguard the security and human rights of all people when responding to sectarian violence in Rakhine State. The Government under law may restrict the rights of certain individuals or groups when their actions affect national security concerns. However, the Government must first ascertain that the threat to national security exists, and must recognize that it bears the burden to demonstrate that	President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	

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		these unlawful actions amount to national security threats.			
		D. It is critical to strengthen existing judicial and other dispute-resolution mechanisms within Rakhine State so they can serve their intended purpose of solving problems within the law.. The Rakhine and Bengali populations will turn to these institutions to solve their disputes only when such institutions are properly functioning.	President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government	The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans	
		E. One issue that has undermined peaceful coexistence between Rakhine and other groups in Rakhine State is the concern expressed by many members of the Rakhine public about recent rapid growth of the Bengali population. . This has fuelled insecurity among some Rakhines. On top of the widely-held belief that all Bengalis are illegal immigrants, such sentiments have driven the feeling among Rakhine groups that they must act to prevent the Bengali population taking over RakhineState . According to many Rakhines, the implementation of family planning programs amongst Bengali communities would go some way to mitigating such concerns and would support the goal of peaceful coexistence. While family planning education should be provided to the Bengali population,	President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government INGOs and NGOs	The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Social and Economic Development Working Committee	

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		<p>the Government and other civil society organizations should refrain from implementing mandatory measures which could seem unfair and abusive. In addition, any mandatory measures could be used by some elements of the Bengali population to stir up instability within the Rakhine State. Moreover, past efforts to outlaw the practice of polygamy among Bengali men have had little impact. Until the current Government came to power in early 2011, Bengali residents did not have the right to marry without local administrative approval. Not only did this requirement provide a loophole for corruption, it had little practical impact. The majority of the Bengali population marry in secret without the necessary administrative approval and children born under these circumstances remain unregistered. Currently, the number of unregistered children is estimated at 60,000 and this number can have significant consequences in determining population growth and density. The Government should take lessons from Pakistan and other Islamic countries that have implemented educational and legal measures in this regard.</p>			
12	Media	A. The communal violence in Rakhine State has drawn both national and international media attention.	President Office	The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term	

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		<p>Government authorities must be vigilant and avoid exacerbating the situation either by words or action when briefing the media or interacting with international organizations. For example, Government authorities should not readily discount the presence of illegal immigrants in Rakhine State, since such statements could provoke further insecurity among the Rakhine population. Instead, the Government should make clear its intention to take decisive action against all illegal immigrants and corrupt civil servants under existing laws.</p>	<p>Union Government Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>B. It is impossible to ban or censor material related to communal conflict in Rakhine State on the internet. Therefore, the Government should regularly release factual and timely information concerning events in Rakhine State. Inability to do so will allow instigators on both sides to spread rumors, thereby worsening the situation. Recent events indicate that the delay in releasing an official account of the situation created an opportunity for instigators on both sides to propagate rumors that fuelled further violence.</p>	<p>President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>C. The communal violence in Rakhine State is monitored both locally and by the international community. Some countries, such as those in ASEAN, are</p>	<p>President Office Union Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term</p>	

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		<p>attempting to internationalize the issue. It is insufficient for the Myanmar Government to claim this is a domestic problem; the Government needs to demonstrate it is capable of resolving the problem internally, and publicize its actions through regular news updates. Even the diplomatic community in Yangon wrongly blames the Government based on information obtained from the internet and other social media outlets. In situations such as this, attempts to control such media outlets will only worsen the situation. Instead, the Government should release accurate, factual accounts as well as ensure greater openness and transparency, except when doing so affects national security. Briefing the media and issuing news bulletins on a regular basis would help greatly in combating misinformation and rumors.</p>	<p>Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>Strategic Plans</p>	
		<p>D. One of the main reasons why the conflict escalated in June, August and September is because the Government did not have sufficient information on <i>Taing-Yin-Tha</i> nationalist associations and their activities in order to take precautionary measures. Consequently, the Government needs to put in place mechanisms for obtaining timely and accurate information on politically active groups so that preventive</p>	<p>President Office Union Government Rakhine State Government</p>	<p>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</p>	

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		measures can be implemented.		The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee	
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