



**Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor**

**PRESS RELEASE**

(Dated: 25 January 2018)

The Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State headed by Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand met in Nay Pyi Taw on 22-23 January 2018.

The Board met with the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 22 January and the Vice President U Myint Swe on 23 January. The Board was briefed by the Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Union Ministers concerned on the progress of work to date on 23 January.

The Board had the opportunity to visit Rakhine State on 24-25 January to observe first hand the situation obtaining on the ground and to interact with local communities.

The Government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to the fullest extent possible and in the shortest time-frame, in accordance with the situation on the ground. It therefore set up the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and established the Advisory Board comprising experienced personalities to get independent and candid advice.

In the course of the discussions in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January, it became evident that the intent of Governor Bill Richardson, a member of the board, was not to provide advice based on the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan but to pursue his own agenda. In view of the difference of opinion that developed, the government decided that his continued participation on the Board would not be in the best interest of all concerned.