Mr. President:

The Lutheran World Federation, would like to express its concern for the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and particularly for the process of Camp reclassification in Central Rakhine State which the Government of Myanmar has called ‘Camp Closure’. The implementation of the ‘camp closure’ policy is creating confusion and further hardship for affected Internally Displaced People or IDPs. They are given no meaningful voice in the relocation process and are vulnerable to pressure from authorities to give up property and land rights. Rohingya and Kaman IDPs remain segregated from surrounding communities, are not able to move freely or access services or livelihoods normally. As such they are unable to access durable solutions. The policy that is currently being implemented is overwhelmingly likely to further a state of segregation.

We believe the Myanmar government should be encouraged to collaborate constructively with the international community towards a durable solutions policy that incorporates international standards.

Therefore, we respectfully call to Myanmar government to:

- Provide an effective consultation with IDPs regarding the camp’s relocation or reclassification.

- A commitment to not pursue the forced or coerced relocation of IDP communities.

- Should IDPs choose to relocate to a site other than their place of origin, there must be clear recognition from the Myanmar government that this relocation is not a renunciation of IDPs’ right to return to their place of origin.

- We urge the Myanmar’s government to share plans and more comprehensive information with humanitarian actors regarding the implementation of the relocation process to better enable them to meet emergency and basic needs of affected communities.

Finally, development actors must adhere to the Centrality of Protection and Human Rights Up Front approaches.

Thank you Mr. President