DHAKA DECLARATION · 2025



Dhaka Declaration on Rohingya

Amplifying Rohingya voices on durable solutions, sustainable repatriation and rights-based return

LOCAL CONSULTATION

13 September 2025

Chittagong Press Club

STRATEGIC NATIONAL DIALOGUE

17 September 2025

CIRDAP, Dhaka

ORGANIZED BY

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro

Informing the UNGA high-level event on the Rohingya, 30 September 2025

Dhaka Declaration on Rohingya

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro organized a local-level consultation workshop on 13 September 2025 at the Chittagong Press Club to engage Rohingya refugees—particularly youth and women—and local civil society, ensuring that their perspectives are meaningfully included in national and global policy discussions. The program documented participants' views on resolution of the Rohingya crisis, in particular on durable solutions, sustainable repatriation, improved living conditions in Bangladesh, conducive atmosphere in Rakhine State, safety and security on return, reintegration with rights. as well as their expectations from the Government and international actors. Its objectives were to amplify Rohingya voices, inform the upcoming Dhaka dialogue, and contribute to deliberations at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro also convened a strategic dialogue on amplifying the Rohingya voices and aspirations on 17 September 2025 at CIRDAP, Dhaka, bringing together Rohingya representatives, leaders from different political parties, government officials, humanitarian actors, civil society representatives, and international stakeholders. The dialogue assessed ground realities, identified barriers to repatriation as the desired durable solution, and deliberated on actionable policy recommendations for national, regional and global stakeholders.

These two initiatives were designed to ensure that Rohingya aspirations appreciated and voices amplified as well as perspectives of civil society and humanitarian actors are captured for facilitating an informed discussion at the high-level event on the Rohingya on 30 September 2025 during the session of the United Nations General Assembly. Serving as a complementary effort to the Government-led Stakeholders' Dialogue held on 24–25 August in Cox's Bazar, these civil society-led independently organized consultations provided an opportunity to examine the crisis from broader and alternative perspectives on seeking solutions to the Rohingya crisis.

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Key Themes and Focus Areas

The consultations held on 13 and 17 September 2025 highlighted the following core themes for collective reflection and identified actions for finding solutions to the Rohingya crisis:

01 Humanitarian Assistance
02 Reforms in Rakhine State and Myanmar
03 Security
04 Repatriation
05 Strengthening the Rohingya Voices
06 Role of the International Community
07 Justice and Accountability
08 Sustained Media Attention

01 Humanitarian Assistance

The consultations underscored the persistent humanitarian challenges faced by Rohingya communities in Bangladesh, with over 1.3 million refugees residing primarily in Cox's Bazar and **Bhashanchar**. Enhanced access to healthcare, education, food and nutrition, and safe living conditions remain a high priority. Participants emphasized that humanitarian support must go beyond basic survival, promoting dignity, self-reliance, and social cohesion with the host communities. Recommendations included diversifying funding sources and secure funding support in particular from the OIC countries and the Middle-East, improving the management of services through necessary clustering, employing Rohingya youth both male and female in camp governance and service delivery to reduce overhead costs, and prioritizing safety and education of women and children. Establishing specialized hospitals and robust referral system and improving security were also highlighted as essential for long-term resilience.

02 Reforms in Rakhine State and Myanmar

Rohingya representatives stressed that a sustainable solution requires meaningful structural reforms in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State. Sustainable repatriation requires recognition as an indigenous ethnicity, citizenship, freedom of movement, access to livelihoods, education and healthcare, and political participation especially the right to vote. Participants also emphasized the importance of reconciliation through inter-community dialogue between Rohingyas, ethnic Rakhines, and other group of people in Myanmar. They considered it a prerequisite to put in place neutral international presence for monitoring of repatriation and maintenance of peace. Reversal of marginalization of the Rohingya and rectification of past injustices must be guaranteed by the Arakan Army/ United League of Arakan as well as the Myanmar authorities, regardless of the political future of Rakhine. In this context, idea of a stabilization force for Rakhine was broached. The consultations further demanded explicit guarantees that the Rohingya ethnic identity be officially recognized as "Rohingya," with full and equal citizenship rights. It was also stressed that effective Rohingya participation in Myanmar's future political processes, including the National Unity Government and any

federal settlement, must be guaranteed, ensuring the Rohingya people's right to self-determination, political representation, and peaceful coexistence with other ethnic nationalities **as equal members of the society.**

03 Security

Sustainable solutions for the Rohingya depend on ensuring a safe environment both in host communities and upon return, which is inseparable from broader political, legal, and governance reforms in Myanmar Security concerns were highlighted as a cross-cutting issue in both host communities and across the border in Rakhine State. Within the camps, risks include crime, trafficking, radicalization, and limited protection for women and children. Border incursions, hostage taking, landmines along the border, firing upon civilians etc. need to be stopped as they add to insecurity. Apprehensions were expressed that Rakhine/ Myanmar forces might try to clear Rakhine off the Rohingya and commence a final push for expulsion of the remaining Rohingya as the final phase on conflict termination. Participants heard observations that Bangladesh should maintain a level of minimum credible deterrence and adequate preparedness against all forms of insecurities. In Rakhine, guarantees of security are essential to prevent renewed persecution, violence, and other forms of violations including forced labor and conscription. Participants emphasized the need for regional and international cooperation to combat transboundary organized crimes, human and arms trafficking, and to provide security assurances with a view to stabilizing conflict-prone areas in Rakhine.

04 Repatriation

Both dialogues consistently affirmed that repatriation is the ultimate solution, but it must be safe, voluntary, dignified, and rights-based, ensuring return of the Rohingya to their habitual residence with suitable reparation. Rohingya participants highlighted that repatriation cannot occur without guarantees of citizenship, security, restitution of property, compensation for past injustices and other remedial measures. They felt the imperative to create compulsions and motivation for the Rakhine and Myanmar stakeholders to welcome the Rohingya back in their folds. Youth and women's participation in advocacy, planning and implementation were identified as critical. A comprehensive roadmap must integrate humanitarian support, livelihood options and assistance, legal reforms, social reintegration, empowerment and participation in decision making to make repatriation sustainable.

05 Strengthening the Rohingya Voices

Effective Rohingya leadership was identified as indispensable for influencing deliberations towards durable solutions. Participants highlighted that internal unity among Rohingya leaders in camps and in diaspora, engagement of youth, involvement of the

women, genocide survivors and the active involvement of community-based organizations are crucial to articulate community needs and demands. Without advocacy and organized civilian leadership, political negotiation and protection of rights would be heavily compromised. Community level consultations on priorities of the community, involvement of women and youth in all levels of consultations, promotion of leadership development activities, interactions with the diaspora were highlighted in the context of forging unity and solidarity as well as strengthening the Rohingya community's capacity to negotiate effectively with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Rakhine authorities and international stakeholders.

06 Role of the International Community

The consultations emphasized that international actors must go beyond funding humanitarian programs to exert political and diplomatic influence. Countries in the neighbourhood in particular China and India, mandated UN agencies and international and regional organizations such as OIC and ASEAN were called upon to pressure Myanmar and Arakan Army/ United League of Arakan (ULA), as appropriate, to implement reforms, guarantee security, uphold human rights, and facilitate repatriation. They urged Muslim countries to come forward with financial resources to bridge the fund gaps. The international community was also urged to support accountability mechanisms, promote tolerance and reconciliation, and assist in reconstruction and peacebuilding inside Rakhine State. They also called for the imposition of targeted sanctions against the Myanmar military and its business partners, as well as a global arms embargo. They further called for all political and economic engagement with Myanmar authorities and non-state actors **like the Arakan Army** to be conditioned on concrete benchmarks, including recognition of Rohingya identity, repeal of discriminatory citizenship laws, and cessation of forced conscription.

Coordinated, sustained, and rights-based international engagement free from geopolitical considerations were seen as essential to achieving durable solutions for the Rohingya crisis. To these ends, heightened diplomatic initiatives must be conceived and implemented on a time-bound manner so as to seek political solution to the Rohingya crisis, beyond repatriation, so as to avoid situations of new armed conflicts

07 Justice and Accountability

Ensuring accountability for atrocities committed against the Rohingya was recognized as fundamental to reconciliation and sustainable solutions. Without addressing historical injustices, repatriation and reintegration would remain incomplete and fragile.

Participants emphasized support for international legal mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. Remedial measures such as truth-

seeking, acknowledgement, reparation, and other aspects of restorative justice were deemed critical to rebuild trust, safeguard human rights, and prevent future persecution and atrocities.

08 Sustained Media Attention

The participants recognized the value of unbiased reports on how the crisis originated in Myanmar, its root cause and principal actors, its present dimensions and possible ways to seek solutions. They underscored the imperative for adequate coverage of all aspects of the crisis **inter alia** challenges the Rohingya community encounter in Rakhine/ Myanmar, Bangladesh and elsewhere; their continued deprivation, marginalization and persecution in Rakhine; obligations of Myanmar Army (**Tatmadaw**)/ Arakan Army and other authorities to rectify them to end the crisis; indifference of some regional countries and important international stakeholders; potentials for solutions and roles of national, regional and international stakeholders; truth seeking, international accountability and restorative justice .

CALL TO ACTION

The participants called upon Myanmar/ Arakan Army, Bangladesh, countries in the neighborhood and interested countries, the mandated United Nations Agencies, civil society, human rights and humanitarian actors, and local and global media to enhance their engagements and rededicate themselves towards addressing the root causes of the protracted crisis and thus creating rights conditions for sustainable repatriation. The Rohingya deserve to return to Rakhine State with individual rights and safety, and to get back their collective rights, cultural identity and dignity.

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro

17 September 2025
Dhaka, Bangladesh