

United Nations Security Council Arria-formula meeting on Myanmar

Date: Friday 19 May 2023

Time: 10:00-13:00 EST

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber

Objectives:

This meeting seeks to provide a spotlight for the complex and worsening humanitarian situation in Myanmar. It offers an opportunity to consider what more the international community can do to unite in addressing the humanitarian challenges and mitigating the associated risks to international peace and security, including how we can further support ASEAN in their efforts to progress the Five Point Consensus (5PC).

Background:

Myanmar is the Indo-Pacific's most severe humanitarian crisis. Following the February 2021 military coup, over 17.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including over 1.8 million internally displaced, of which 667,000 are children. 600,000 Rohingya remain in Rakhine State, over a quarter living in Internally Displaced Persons camps, where conditions are poor and access to basic services is limited. Humanitarian access is extremely challenging across the country, and continued fighting has only further exacerbated the situation.

The international community has an important role to play in addressing the crisis, including its humanitarian challenges, as made clear by UNSCR 2669 (2022). The resolution expresses deep concern with the situation in Myanmar and its implications for regional security and stability. It reiterates the necessity for full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access, including the full protection, safety, and security of humanitarian and medical personnel. It also underlines the need for scaled up humanitarian assistance to all people in need in Myanmar. It further calls for concrete and immediate actions, noting the military's commitments to ASEAN to effectively and fully implement the 5PC.

Guiding questions:

1. Bearing in mind the ongoing conflict, how can the international community encourage urgent progress to address humanitarian challenges in Myanmar, including ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need?
2. How can the international community best support efforts, including by ASEAN, to address humanitarian needs in Myanmar?
3. How can the international community ensure that the voices of the Rohingya are heard and that their challenges are responded to, while also ensuring that any returns are voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable?

Briefers: TBC

Participation:

UN Security Council members, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and bordering countries are invited to participate. Interpretation will be provided in the UN official languages.

Participants are requested to limit interventions to three (3) minutes. To subscribe to the list of speakers, please email Mariea Sekijima at Mariea.Sekijima@fcdo.gov.uk no later than COP Wednesday 17 May.