



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to United Nations**

**Agenda Item 83: Crimes Against Humanity, at the Sixth Committee of the
Seventy-Sixth session of UN General Assembly
(New York, 15 October 2021)**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the International Law Commission and the Special Rapporteur for crimes against humanity, for their extensive and dedicated work. It provides a fundamental ground for the Member States to discuss and negotiate towards an international convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. We are of the view that it is vital important for all of us to work together to end the impunity for the perpetrators of serious crimes and to contribute to the prevention of such crimes.

Crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. It is a threat to international peace and security and perpetrators of such crimes should be held accountable. Every state has prime responsibility to exercise its criminal jurisdiction with respect to crimes against humanity. Preventing serious crimes and fighting impunity, while respecting state sovereignty and avoiding interference in states' domestic affairs, is a common essential goal for the international community. However, having an international convention for such serious crimes would contribute to end of impunity to perpetrators. The convention is acutely needed for the international community especially for a country where the military is dominated with culture of impunity and is committing inhumane acts against its own people.

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to apprise you of our own heartbreaking experience of atrocities in Myanmar. Since the military coup on 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military has been conducting a systematic and targeted campaign of attacks against the civilian population. Confronting those atrocities, hundreds of thousands of ordinary Myanmar citizens have been bravely engaging in peaceful protest and desperately calling for the restoration of democracy in our country. Yet even as we seek to protect our democracy, defend our liberty and preserve our humanity, the military is attacking the people in the streets, in the houses, in the schools, in the hospitals, in the villages, in the places of worship, among others.

To date, the military has extra-judicially, arbitrarily and summarily executed more than 1,100 civilians. The military has tortured many hundreds more and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment. Using live ammunition and assault weapons, the Military has and is even now attacking the civilian population with extreme brutality and without any exceptions. The victims of these crimes against humanity include not only anti-military protesters, but also children, innocent bystanders and people who are peacefully in their own homes.

The serious crimes the military committed include massacre. It has been broadly reported recently in Kani township of Sagaing Region. Total of around 40 bodies was found and the incidents are clearly amounting to crimes against humanity. Another two similar incidents happened in the surrounding villages of Kani Township. A total of 12 and 11 dead bodies of the local residents were found with wounds and injuries of severe tortures in the following days of the military raid to the villages of those dead people.

Recently, the military has deployed reinforcements with 3,000 troops to conduct clearance operations in northwest of Myanmar including Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Chin State. Many have expressed their concern that the military would conduct offensive attacks in those areas in a disproportionate and indiscriminate manner and commit grave violations of human rights amounting to crimes humanity.

Not only now, the military committed crimes against humanity in the past including against Rohingya people in 2017. Therefore, The National Unity Government is actively seeking accountability and justice for past and ongoing crimes committed by the military. The NUG is committed to ensuring accountability and ending impunity for those high-ranking officials and their subordinates from the military who committed a grave violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. Accordingly, the NUG lodged a declaration with the registrar of the International Criminal Court on 17 July 2021, accepting the Court's jurisdiction with respect to the international crimes committed in the territory of Myanmar since July 2002.

The people of Myanmar are helpless even to seek accountability for the perpetrators. I wish to recall that I have appealed time and again the United Nations Security Council to take decisive and timely measures against the military including imposing a global arms embargo on the military to end its atrocities against civilians.

Madam Chairperson,

Our painful experiences clearly demonstrate the urgent need of the international convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. We earnestly hope that such convention will be adopted in the near future. It will help save lives of innocent people from the crimes against humanity.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, I wish to stress that the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission reflect the call for further efforts of the international community to end impunity for perpetrators of crimes against humanity and to provide justice for victims of such crimes. In this regard, Myanmar supports the elaboration of a Convention on the basis of the draft articles, as recommended by the ILC.

I thank you.
