



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations at General Debate on
Agenda Item 80: “Crimes Against Humanity” of the Sixth Committee of the 79th
session of UN General Assembly
(New York, 10 October 2024)**

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar thanks the International Law Commission for drafting the articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity and its recommendations.

We also welcome the continued progresses achieved by this committee, including the discussions during the resumed part of the 78th session.

Our delegation has also supported and co-sponsored the draft resolution tabled by the Gambia, Mexico and a group of countries, considering both the existing gaps in the international legal framework and immediate challenges of crimes against humanity at home.

We look forward to a constructive discussion and achieving positive outcome in the current session so that to step up our effort in making necessary decisions.

Mr. Chair,

The concept of 'Crimes against Humanity', first codified in the 1945 Nuremberg Charter, has served as a cornerstone of international criminal law for over seven decades. Yet, the grim reality of our 21st-century world belies any notion of progress. From the killing fields of Cambodia in the 1970s to the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans in the 1990s, from the horrors of the Rwandan genocide to the ongoing crises and now the wars in Gaza and

Ukraine as well as the shocking atrocities by the military junta in my country, Myanmar, these grave offenses against human dignity persist with alarming frequency and brutality.

Given the harrowing events unfolding across the globe, including the unspeakable tragedy in Myanmar, the imperative to address crimes against humanity through a robust international legal framework has never been more pressing. It underscores the urgent need for concrete action to prevent, prosecute, and punish these grave crimes.

The situation in my country starkly illustrates the devastating consequences of inaction of the international community.

Mr. Chair,

Serious human rights violations perpetrated by the military junta in Myanmar have escalated to horrific levels and it is not without proof. The United Nations Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) has collected numerous evidences of atrocities in Myanmar. According to IIMM, the atrocities committed by the military junta are amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Since the illegal coup attempt in February 2021, over 5,700 were brutally killed the military junta. Over 3.4 million people being displaced. Over 18.6 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian, majority of them are women and girls. Over 6 million children are in displacement and under interrupted healthcare and formal education. Some are taking classes in make-shift tents and bunkers.

The military junta has continued its atrocities across the country and intensified its campaign of terror and launched deadly airstrikes against civilian targets including schools, hospitals, markets, and camps for internally displaced persons on a daily basis.

In last September alone, these attacks claimed 117 lives across the country, including 12 children. In particular, the junta's five airstrikes in Shan State, Chin State and Magway Region on 6 September resulted in 24 civilian deaths including at least 10 children.

Mr. Chair,

As we continue to struggle through this vicious cycle, Myanmar regards crimes against humanity as serious violations of law and the very essence of what it means to be human. When we fail to address crimes against humanity, we not only fail the victims, but we also diminish our own humanity.

Perpetrators of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity shall never obtain legitimacy claiming political power. Their rightful place is not in parliaments or presidential palaces, but before the bench of international criminal courts or tribunals. Allow these individuals to deception as leaders through fraudulent elections means mocking the very foundations of humanity, democracy and human rights.

In this regard, we, the people of Myanmar strongly reject the junta's planned sham election. Under the circumstance of the junta's continued atrocities against the people of Myanmar, such sham election will never be free, fair and inclusive.

Bring justice to the victims matters. Bring the perpetrators accountable matters. Therefore, we reject any attempt to overlook justice for whatsoever reason. Our commitment to transitional justice and federal democracy is unwavering.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, the international community and the UN Security Council have frequently failed to take meaningful actions to protect the people of Myanmar. The Security Council should seriously revisit its inaction which abandons our people in the face of ongoing atrocities and permits perpetrators to continue undermining global human rights principles gravely. The Council must now take lead by applying all tools possible to end the military junta's atrocities in Myanmar. Hence, we reiterate our call on the international community to build momentum and take concrete actions to stop the junta's international crimes.

The time for decisive action is now. Please stand with the people of Myanmar. True stability can only be built on justice, not on deliberate neglect.

The culture of impunity must end. The cycle of violence ends when impunity does.

I thank you.
