



MYANMAR

Please check against the delivery

**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations,
at the Sixth Committee General Debate on Agenda Item 86: “Protection of Persons in
the Event of Disasters”
(New York, 15 October 2025)**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to thank the International Law Commission for its continuous contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law, including through its work on the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters.

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered by the ASEAN.

The growing frequency and intensity of disasters, whether natural or human made, continue to pose serious challenges to the international community. The compounded effects of conflict, climate change and governance failures have deepened human suffering and undermined the resilience of societies across the world. Myanmar shares this concern.

Vulnerable populations, particularly in developing countries, remain disproportionately affected by such crises, often lacking the capacity, infrastructure and resources necessary to respond and recover effectively. In this regard, the Draft Articles serve as an important framework for strengthening international cooperation and ensuring that the protection of persons remains at the centre of disaster response and risk reduction.

Myanmar also takes note of the underlying principles enshrined in the Draft Articles, in particular those contained in Articles 4 to 7, which affirm the inherent dignity of the human person, the respect for human rights and the duty to cooperate. These principles constitute

the normative foundation of collective humanitarian action and provide essential guidance for both affected and assisting States in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Mr. Chair,

As reflected in Article 10, the Draft Articles reaffirm the primary role of the affected State in ensuring the protection of persons and the provision of disaster relief assistance. The duty of the affected State to seek and facilitate external assistance, as reflected in Articles 11 and 15, constitutes an essential safeguard to ensure that the needs of affected populations are met in a timely, effective and impartial manner.

When these responsibilities are neglected or deliberately obstructed or even exploited, particularly in situations where disasters coincide with conflict and widespread violations of human rights, the resulting human suffering is immense and often irreversible.

The current situation of my country, Myanmar, is the best example to be highlighted.

The situation in Myanmar continues to demonstrate the grave humanitarian consequences that occur when the principles embodied in the Draft Articles are disregarded in practice. Myanmar today is facing precisely such a human made disaster, created by the military's unlawful actions and its deliberate disregard for the lives and well being of its people. Using disasters for gain instead of relief only worsens suffering and denies the spirit of the Draft Articles.

The 7.7 magnitude earthquake which struck Myanmar on 28 March this year caused catastrophic destruction across large parts of the country. Sagaing, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw were among the hardest hit. The earthquake claimed the lives of almost 4,200 people, injured more than 3,600, and affected over 3.2 million.

Many homes, religious sites and essential infrastructures were destroyed.

The latest report of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2025, provides alarming evidence of the escalating gravity of crimes committed by the military junta even in the midst of natural disasters.

Within days of the 28 March 2025 earthquake, when communities were encountering immense suffering and still healing from destruction, the military has continued to launch aerial bombardments on civilian areas across the country including Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

The deliberate targeting of civilians during a period of humanitarian emergency reflects a policy of terror and a total disregard for international humanitarian law, human dignity and the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality reflected in the Draft Articles.

Therefore, we also need to consider how to protect civilians in the event of disasters under such similar situations through the Draft Articles.

Mr. Chair

In conclusion, the people of Myanmar continue to endure immense suffering as a result of both natural and human made disasters compounded by the military's ongoing campaign of violence and repression. Myanmar therefore calls upon all Member States and the international community to stand firmly with the people of Myanmar in their efforts to stop the junta's planned sham, scam elections, to end military dictatorship, to build a federal democratic union and to secure a peaceful, just and prosper future for the country. Only through accountability, justice and the restoration of democratic governance can lasting peace and human dignity be achieved.

I thank you.
