



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO HEAR A BRIEFING BY THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MYANMAR**

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing today's briefing by the Special Envoy. Over the past months, the deterioration of the situation in Myanmar has continued unabated. An unaccountable military junta has intensified its violent oppression of dissent, trampling the rights of the people of Myanmar and severing the country's transition to a democratic order. As this situation persists, the humanitarian needs of the population will only grow. Civilians who have sacrificed incomes and risked their lives opposing the coup have been left in poverty. And as with many conflicts across the world, members of minority ethnic groups suffer particularly intensely.

A year ago this week, Liechtenstein together with a core group put forward resolution 75/287 on the situation in Myanmar, which passed by an overwhelming majority. The resolution condemns the use of lethal force and violence by the Myanmar armed forces, calling on them to reverse course, reaffirms the Assembly's support for the people of Myanmar, and highlights the need for accountability for the crimes committed against the people of Myanmar, in particular the Rohingya, stressing the principle of command responsibility in connection with the ongoing attacks on the civilian population. It also calls on all member States to prevent the flow of arms

into Myanmar. The resolution furthermore issues a clear call for an inclusive and peaceful dialogue between all parties, in accordance with the will of the people of Myanmar, supporting and complementing the pronouncements from the Security Council and resolutions of the Human Rights Council.

However, since the passing of resolution 75/287 we have not seen the sustained pressure necessary to bring about the developments called for by this Assembly. The Security Council, which has not met in public nor passed any resolution on the situation in Myanmar since the coup, has been unable to complement the action taken by the General Assembly. The systemic impunity for the gravest crimes committed in Myanmar in recent history has been the breeding ground for more violence. It is not too late for the Security Council to do the right thing and refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, expanding its very narrow existing jurisdiction over crimes committed against the Rohingya. We express appreciation for the Prosecutor's prioritization of the ongoing investigation. We also appreciate the initiative taken by The Gambia to bring a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention. The Security Council should take action to support compliance with the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice in the *The Gambia v. Myanmar* case.

In addition, we look to the important work of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). International crimes committed today, including crimes against humanity, fall under the mechanism's mandate; when Myanmar returns to an order governed by democracy and the rule of law, as it will, its future can be based on justice.

Mr. President,

This is a political and a security crisis, but its immediate consequences are felt by the people of Myanmar as a violation of their fundamental rights and freedoms – as excessive violence by police, the military and paramilitary forces, as denial of freedom of expression or association, of political participation and of accountability. The people of Myanmar deserve the full support of

the international community in their struggle for freedom. The voice of States from the region is particularly important, both for the people of Myanmar and for regional stability. This has become ever more urgent as the military junta continues to ignore the five-point consensus adopted at the ASEAN leaders' meeting last year.

We must all listen to the expressed will of the people of Myanmar themselves, and support their bravery and resilience against violent oppression. Their desire to freely govern themselves represents the values that the United Nations is built on, and we have a collective responsibility to stand up for them. We continue to call on the authorities, as we did in resolution 75/287, to respect the will of the people as freely expressed by the results of the general election of 8 November 2020, to end the state of emergency, to respect all human rights of all the people of Myanmar, including the immediate and unconditional release all who have been arbitrarily detained, changed and arrested, and to allow a sustained democratic transition. The international community must ensure that arms transfers into Myanmar end immediately in light of the evident disposition of the authorities to use weapons against civilians in blatant violation of international law, while we note that the Security Council has the primary responsibility in this respect.

I thank you.