



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
under Agenda Item 131: The Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of
Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes against Humanity
at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 6 July 2026)**

Madam President,

I wish to begin by thanking you for convening this meeting.

I also thank the Secretary-General and his Special Advisor on R2P for the comprehensive report.

Madam President,

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was unanimously adopted at the 2005 UN World Summit Outcome.

Yet our commitment to this international norm has been met with persistent challenges from growing impunity for atrocity crimes to the lack of collective willingness to act.

Against this backdrop, today's debate offers an opportunity to move from rhetoric to implementation, share best practices in prevention and highlight country-specific situations, where populations are enduring atrocity crimes, including my own, Myanmar.

Madam President,

Under the R2P framework, the protection of affected populations and prevention of atrocity crimes rest on the shoulders of States and the international community to varying degrees.

The primary responsibility to protect civilians falls on a respective nation. However, once a state fails to do so, the international community should not take a blind eye, instead bear the necessary responsibility to protect vulnerable population.

In this regard, I wish to underscore the following three pillars of R2P with regard to Myanmar where its people have been clearly and loudly appealing to the international community to protect them.

First, responsibility to protect its populations from mass atrocity crimes: following the illegal 2021 coup, the military junta has demolished our democratic institutions, the rule of law and judicial independence to commit mass atrocities with complete impunity.

Their flagrant violations, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, have been repeatedly documented by the UN including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

More than 8,100 people have been killed by the military junta. Over 3.7 million people are internally displaced.

It is reported that the military had intensified its system-wide campaign of violence against the civilian population, including 1,147 aerial attacks and 20 massacres, within 70 days of its sham-administration from 20 April to 30 June this year.

The military junta, regardless of their nominal status, remains the primary and willful perpetrator of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Myanmar, which brings me to the next pillar.

Second, responsibility of the international community to assist States in meeting that responsibility: protection of affected populations, accountability for perpetrators and transitional justice for victims are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing.

In response to heinous and widespread crimes of the military junta, the National Unity Government (NUG) has declared in July 2021 its acceptance of the jurisdiction of the

International Criminal Court in accordance with Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute to address accountability gaps and protect the civilian population across Myanmar.

Taking this opportunity, I urge the ICC to duly consider the Prosecutor's application for an arrest warrant against Min Aung Hlaing for his crimes against the people.

In addition, the NUG and allied democratic forces are coordinating, through the Steering Council for the Emergence of a Federal Democratic Union (SCEF), to institute a system of transitional justice to achieve justice and accountability for victims of injustices during the conflict period.

We call on the international community to support the SCEF in their endeavors to eradicate the military dictatorship and build a federal democratic union for sustained protection and prevention measures.

Third, responsibility of the international community to take appropriate collective action in a timely and decisive manner: over five years since the coup, the international community has explored diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, including the ASEAN 5PC and the SCR 2669 (2022) to address the situation in Myanmar.

However, realities on the ground demonstrate complete inadequacy of such measures.

Protection of affected populations, therefore, requires decisive actions by the international community, including a follow-up SC resolution under Chapter VII, and the cessation of flow of arms, weapons, jet fuel, other dual-use items and related technologies to the military junta.

The awaited decision of the ICJ on the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar* should serve as an opportunity to hold the military junta and its leadership accountable for their international crimes against the people.

In conclusion, **Madam President**, Myanmar reaffirms our responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, including through their prevention and incitement.

The international community cannot remain a bystander or even complicit in the military junta's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Here, I wish to demand that any country should not be complicit to the military junta's ongoing atrocities by having unwarranted engagements with them. It will be in the history of Myanmar, and the people of Myanmar will always remember bitterly and painfully them.

Time is of the essence. Implementation of the R2P by the international community is clearly long overdue to save the lives of the people of Myanmar and their future.

I thank you.
