



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Informal Plenary Meeting – Briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

**Statement by H.E. The Hon. Mitch Fifield,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations**

18 June 2021

Thank you, Mr President.

And thank you Ms Schraner Burgener for your timely but troubling update on the dire situation in Myanmar. It is a reminder of the need for a strong global response to the military coup, violence and human suffering in Myanmar.

In this context, Australia particularly welcomes ASEAN's efforts to set out a roadmap towards a solution.

As a longstanding supporter of Myanmar and its democratic transition, Australia wishes to express its full support for the resolution passed earlier today.

With widespread, cross-regional support, this resolution represents a clear message from the international community to Myanmar's security forces: the horrific violence taking place in Myanmar must end; and democracy must be restored.

We will not let the passage of time dim our determination.

The death toll continues to grow, tragically including children.

Australia continues to condemn the use of lethal force and repression against the people of Myanmar.

We implore those responsible to take heed of the international community's calls, to stop the killing, and to release all those arbitrarily detained.

We also remain deeply concerned about the impact of these events on humanitarian crises across the country, and the setback they pose to prospects for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya and other displaced persons.

We are very concerned about reports of widening conflict and increasing civilian casualties in conflict affected areas, and we call on Myanmar's military authorities to allow greater access for humanitarian assistance to be delivered to people in need.

Nor can we lose our focus on accountability – including for abuses perpetrated in Rakhine State since August 2017.
Mr President,

Let us be clear. The situation in Myanmar poses a threat to regional stability and international peace and security.

Australia welcomes ASEAN's leadership, including that of Brunei as ASEAN Chair. We call for the swift implementation of ASEAN's Five Points of Consensus.

We are committed to supporting ASEAN's efforts to chart a course out of the current crisis, and urge the UN and its Member States to provide ASEAN all appropriate support.

We look forward to the appointment of a Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair as a matter of priority, and to an early visit by them to Myanmar, including to meet all parties concerned.

We also continue to fully support the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar and call on the military to permit her to visit as soon as possible.

Mr President,

Australia is steadfast in its support for the people of Myanmar.

The international community needs to use all tools available to us, collectively and individually, to promote de-escalation, dialogue and a return to the path of democracy.

Thank you.

ENDS