

## 15. The situation in Myanmar

During the period under review, the Council held one public meeting and two private meetings under the item entitled “The situation in Myanmar”. At the only public meeting in 2022, the Council also adopted a resolution, the first resolution adopted under this agenda item.<sup>570</sup> More information about the meetings including on participants, speakers and outcome, is provided in the table below. In addition, Council members held consultations in connection with this item.<sup>571</sup>

On 28 January and 27 May, the Council held private meetings during which it heard briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar and the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator. In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cambodia provided briefings to the Council in his capacity as Special Envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Chair on Myanmar.<sup>572</sup>

On 21 December, the Council held a meeting at which it adopted resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#), with three abstentions.<sup>573</sup> By resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#), the Council demanded an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout Myanmar, and urged restraint and de-escalation of tensions and for all parties to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, while also urging the Myanmar military to immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners, including President Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.<sup>574</sup> The Council further acknowledged the central role of ASEAN in helping to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Myanmar in the interests of the people of Myanmar and encouraged the international community to support the ASEAN-led mechanism and process in that regard, including efforts to implement

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<sup>570</sup> For further information on past proceedings and decisions adopted in connection with this item, see *Repertoire, Supplements 2004-2007 to Supplement 2021*.

<sup>571</sup> See [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 32.

<sup>572</sup> For more information on participation in meetings of the Council, see part II.

<sup>573</sup> See [S/PV.9231](#). The draft resolution ([S/2022/980](#)) received 12 votes in favour (Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America), none against and three abstentions (China, India, Russian Federation).

<sup>574</sup> See resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#), paras 1, 2 and 4.

the Five Point Consensus.<sup>575</sup> The Council also called for concrete and immediate actions to effectively and fully implement ASEAN’s Five Point Consensus agreed on 24 April 2021. It also requested the Secretary-General, or through his Special Envoy, to report orally by 15 March 2023 on the United Nations support on the implementation of the Five Point Consensus.<sup>576</sup> The Council further underscored the need to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine State and to create the necessary conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and internally displaced persons.<sup>577</sup>

After the vote, the representative of the United Kingdom, the penholder of the resolution, affirmed that with the adoption of resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#), the Council had responded to the calls of ASEAN leaders for United Nations support for their efforts.<sup>578</sup> She also indicated that the briefing of the Secretary-General in March 2023, mandated under the resolution, would be an important opportunity to assess developments on the ground. The representative of France welcomed the adoption of the resolution and underlined that, faced with the continuous deterioration of the situation, it was essential that the Council expressed its concerns and its demands to the “junta”, in support of the Burmese people. The representative of Norway, while emphasizing the importance of the adoption of the resolution, expressed regret that the Council was not able to agree on a more substantial text that would send an even stronger signal to the actors in Myanmar to abstain from violence and engage constructively towards building a peaceful, reform-oriented and prosperous Myanmar. She indicated that Norway had advocated for stronger language, including on the protection of children and education in armed conflict, combating sexual and gender-based violence and ending impunity, as well as language on preventing the flow of arms and financial assets of the military. The representative of Norway further noted that resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#) should be followed by other, more substantial resolutions, including Chapter VII provisions, should the situation warrant it. The representative of Ireland recalled his country’s position that Council action in response to the violence suffered by the Myanmar people since the military coup in 2021 had been inadequate and emphasized that the Council could have and should have done more. He further explained that Ireland had

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<sup>575</sup> Ibid., para. 5.

<sup>576</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>577</sup> Ibid., para. 10.

<sup>578</sup> See [S/PV.9231](#).

voted in favour of the resolution in order to combat the cycle of violence and impunity that the Myanmar military relied upon. The representative of Ireland was of the view that the resolution should have gone further by recognizing and condemning the continued sale and transfer of weapons to Myanmar and the widespread sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations against children in Myanmar; and by recognizing the importance of accountability mechanisms such as the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and directly calling on the Myanmar military to halt their relentless assault on the people of Myanmar. The representative of Ireland also reiterated the need for the Council to maintain a dedicated focus on the situation in Myanmar, to do so in open meetings and to keep at the heart of its work the needs and interests of the Myanmar people. The representative of the United Arab Emirates welcomed the adoption of the resolution and noted that the text sent an important message about the need to address the challenges faced by the Rohingya, the crisis in Rakhine state and the dangers it posed to the situation in the region, at a time when international attention on the Rohingya crisis was waning. She considered, however, that the language contained in the resolution was insufficient and that the text failed to address the scope of the current challenges on the ground. The representative of the United States welcomed the adoption of the resolution but similarly stressed that the resolution did not go far enough, and that it had failed to: directly address the regime's severe violations of the freedom of religion and belief, call for the regime to face justice for the crimes it had reportedly committed, acknowledge General Assembly resolution [75/287](#) in support of an arms embargo, and pursue a mechanism to prevent the flow of financial resources to the regime. The representative of Ghana underscored that through resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#), the Council had responded to the call by ASEAN on the United Nations to support the organization's efforts in the implementation of the Five Point Consensus. The representative of Brazil expressed appreciation for the positive engagement of all Council members, which had allowed the Council to speak on the situation in Myanmar, and for the involvement of and consultations with ASEAN in the process. She further commended the United Kingdom, as penholder, for the inclusive and transparent manner in which it conducted the process to arrive at the text adopted. The representative of Albania underscored that the adoption of resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#) demonstrated the ability of the Council to respond to the growing calls for supporting Myanmar in finding a peaceful solution to the deep crisis in the country, noting that the Council

would have the opportunity to remain seized of the developments in Myanmar. The representative of Mexico explained that his country had voted in favour of the resolution because it conveyed an unequivocal message that reaffirmed the need for an immediate cessation of violence, respect for human rights and the need for an inclusive dialogue to resume the process towards democratic transition in the interest of the people of Myanmar. He pointed out, however, that Mexico would have preferred that the resolution had included references to the importance of preventing the flow of arms. The representative of Gabon indicated that his vote in favour of the resolution reflected a message of solidarity with the people of Myanmar and against violence on the civilian population as well as a call for a resolution of the Rohingya crisis. He indicated that Gabon would continue to support the quest for a solution based on dialogue, while encouraging the prioritization of the regional dynamic and the guiding role of ASEAN.

The representative of China, who abstained from the vote, expressed continued concerns about the resolution that had just been adopted. In terms of the format, the representative of China was of the view that a presidential statement would have been more appropriate under the circumstances. In terms of content, China considered that even after amendments, the tone of the text lacked balance. The representative of China warned that the Council should act with caution; and emphasized that blindly using the Council to exert pressure or threaten sanctions would only intensify confrontation and antagonism, complicate the situation and prolong the crisis. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that his country had abstained in the voting, as it was Russia's principled position that the situation in Myanmar did not pose a threat to international peace and security. He pointed out that the contents of the resolution were focused mostly on human rights aspects, which he said should be addressed by the Third Committee of the General Assembly rather than the Security Council. He further expressed dissatisfaction with the penholder, stating that the concerns regarding the text that other delegations had raised had been ignored, in particular the proposal to include a point about the counter-productiveness of unilateral restrictive measures that had a negative effect on the socioeconomic situation in the country. He also warned against the Council playing into the hands of those who would benefit from a destabilization of the situation on the ground, undermining the mediation efforts of ASEAN and creating divisions in the Council. He further indicated that the effect of the non-consensual resolution was going to be rather limited and thus the Russian Federation had decided

not to veto it, despite its clearly provocative nature. He also emphasized that the situation in Rakhine state was the only aspect of the situation in Myanmar that should be on the agenda of the Council. The representative of India, which also abstained from the vote, praised the delegation of the United Kingdom for having negotiated the text of resolution [2669 \(2022\)](#) in a transparent and consultative manner by taking into account the views of neighbouring countries, and in particular those of ASEAN. She noted, however, that under the current circumstances, India was of the view that a Council resolution might entrench the parties in their inflexible positions, rather than encourage them to pursue an inclusive political dialogue.

### Meetings: The situation in Myanmar

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8959</a> (closed) 28 January 2022			Cambodia <sup>a</sup>	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.9049</a> (closed) 27 May 2022			Cambodia <sup>a</sup>	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.9231</a> 21 December 2022		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2022/980</a> )			14 Council members <sup>b</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2669 (2022)</a> 12-0-3 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cambodia briefed the Council in his capacity as Special Envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chair on Myanmar.

<sup>b</sup> Albania, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

<sup>c</sup> *For*: Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America. *Against*: None. *Abstaining*: China, India, Russian Federation.