



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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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,

I thank you for organizing this briefing of the Special Envoy, in response to the letter we jointly sent with other Member States, on the basis of the mandate the General Assembly has adopted less than two months ago. At that time, who would have expected such a fast and terrible turn of events – a military coup trampling the rights of the people of Myanmar, disrupting the transition to a democratic order, violently oppressing peaceful dissent and serving the narrow interests of a detached and unaccountable military with a decades-long record of violence and mismanagement. The report of the Special Envoy is extremely concerning and puts the international community to the test. We are grateful for the clear words the Secretary-General has found to condemn this coup, demanding an immediate end to the repression. From all corners of the world those words resonate in similar strong reactions. States from the region and Myanmar's fellow ASEAN members have the most impactful voice, as reflected also in the Security Council statement on the situation. We look at them to stand in support of the people of Myanmar and for the stability of the region.

We must all listen to the loud and clear voice of the people of Myanmar themselves, support their bravery and their resilience against violent oppression and against the attempt to send them back to the dark times. They represent the values that the United Nations is built on, and we have a collective responsibility to stand up for them. We call on the authorities to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from further

violence, release all political prisoners and to stand down to allow for a process of restoring democracy. At the same time, the international community must ensure that arms transfers into Myanmar are stopped without delay in light of the evident disposition of the authorities to use weapons against civilians in blatant violation of international law. The Security Council has the primary responsibility in this respect. We also call on the authorities to facilitate the visit of the Special Envoy without further delay. The General Assembly has a duty to remain seized of the situation in Myanmar, including on the question of arms transfers, and to reconvene and act in light of the situation on the ground and the ability of the Security Council to take effective action.

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 and military, as denial of freedom of expression or association, of political participation and of accountability. Some of the same forces responsible for mass atrocities against the Rohingya and other minorities now engage in oppression of peaceful protesters who claim what the Myanmar constitution guarantees to them. The climate of systematic impunity for the gravest crimes committed in Myanmar in recent history has been the breeding ground for more violence, contributing to lowering inhibitions where the deterrence of the full effect of the law would be needed. It is not too late for the Security Council to do the right thing and refer the situation in Myanmar to the ICC. At the same time, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) does its important work - international crimes, including crimes against humanity, fall under the mechanism's mandate, also if committed today. For these crimes, there won't be an expiration date, so that when Myanmar returns to democracy and to the rule of law, as it will, its future can be based on justice.

The General Assembly is mandated to follow up on the briefing today, in short time and with a concrete outcome if needed. The people of Myanmar deserve the full support of the international community in their struggle for freedom.

I thank you.