



# SC

## Security Council



**Committee:** Security Council (SC)

**Topic:** Analyzing the Political and Humanitarian Crisis Due to the Impact of the State of Myanmar

**Written by:** Lizbeth González Olvera

Welcome Delegates to SPISMUN del Paseo 2025! It is an honor to have you here, we hope you have a wonderful experience, while showing off your skills. Let's keep in mind the value of cooperation and understanding as we set this Model.

We hope you have fun, learn, and have an amazing time debating the topic we have put together for you. We expect excellent behavior during this simulation, as you express your ideas and solutions.

Remember, MUN is not just about winning resolutions; it's about learning, growth, and forging friendships that transcend borders. Let us embrace our roles as global citizens and approach each session with curiosity and empathy.

Your Moderator is Hayul Woo, your Secretary is Paulina del Bosque and I, Lizbeth Gonzalez will be your Director. We hope you enjoy, and show enthusiasm towards MUN in this simulation. We are so excited to hear your stunning ideas in the debate!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of your chairs.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at:

[spismunpaseo@sanpatricio.edu.mx](mailto:spismunpaseo@sanpatricio.edu.mx)

Sincerely,

Lizbeth González

## **I. Committee Background:**

The Security Council was formally founded on October 24, 1945, and had its first session on January 17, 1946, at the Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United headquarters in New York City. The council is composed by 15 members, five permanent members (the People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America)- which were the five victorious powers of World War II, and are granted with a veto power, and there are ten non-permanent (temporary) members, elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (GA). Every year, elections are held to replace the remaining members.



The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

## **II. History of the Topic**

On February 1, 2021, Myanmar's military, the Tatmadaw, staged a coup to depose the government of the National League for Democracy (NLD), which had overwhelmingly won national elections in November 2020. The Tatmadaw claimed there had been electoral fraud and declared a year-long state of emergency, placing commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing at the head of a newly created State Administrative Council.

State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and other NLD leaders were arrested and later charged with a series of offenses on dubious grounds. The remaining NLD parliamentarians hid and formally created the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which, along with some representatives of some ethnic groups in Myanmar, established a National Unity Government, on April 16, 2021, which is now acting as a parallel civilian government.



The coup has led to an unknown unity in Myanmar among those who oppose the military rules, resulting in the largest protest movement since the pro-democracy uprising of 1988. Thousands of people have participated in peaceful protests in Yangon, while a civil disobedience movement has halted the functioning of many parts of the government.

The Tatmadaw tolerated the anti-coup protest for the first few weeks, it subsequently launched a predictable violent crackdown and used deadly force against protesters, causing a serious human rights crisis.

Myanmar's military junta has miscalculated opposition to its seizure of power, leading to a growing number of civilians taking up arms and organizing themselves into civil defense forces. The National Union of Myanmar (NUG) has announced its desire to create a federal army with ethnic armed groups and established a “people's defense force.” The current human rights crisis is seen as the latest phase of state repression, with the army generals presiding over the crackdown being the same who should be prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The human rights violations since the coup in Myanmar have been deemed crimes against humanity, including murder, enforced disappearances, persecution, torture, and imprisonment. These violations violate international law and are part of a systematic attack against civilian populations. The Tatmadaw's terror campaign, particularly against the protest movement, has

raised concerns about human rights. The violence against ethnic armed groups is also linked to these issues, highlighting the need for a comprehensive analysis of these human rights concerns.

State security forces in Myanmar have used excessive force against peaceful protesters and those opposing military rule, resulting in over 860 deaths as of June 2021. The state security forces have shown disregard for international human rights standards, which require force to be proportionate to the threat posed and only used as a last resort in self-defense or to protect others. They have even blamed protesters and threatened to cause loss of life for those caught demonstrating. Some notorious military units, such as the 33, 77, and 101 Light Infantry Divisions, have operated alongside police officers, sometimes even lending them weapons. The security forces have used violent crowd-dispersal techniques, including water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets, and sound grenades. Many of the protesters killed have been shot in the head by army marksmen and snipers.



Myanmar's security forces have targeted healthcare workers and protesters, resulting in 212 attacks against medical facilities, vehicles, personnel, and patients between February and May. Security forces have also forcibly occupied hospitals, schools, and university campuses, violating children's rights. Over 100 medical students and workers have been arrested, and over sixty schools and universities have been attacked and damaged by explosives.

Because of internal issues as well as a decline in support for multilateralism, the UN system has had difficulty responding to atrocity crimes. The Human Rights Up Front (HRuF) program was started in 2013 by the former UN secretary-general in response to an assessment of the UN's inability to confront war crimes in Sri Lanka. Prioritizing human rights and overcoming a risk-averse company culture were the goals of HRuF. Nonetheless, there is scant indication of major variations in the UN's human rights policy.

The UN's 2017 response to the Rohingya crisis was marked by “systemic and structural failures,” with the organization mainly unable to deal with grave violations of human rights. Since Secretary-General António Guterres has not given HRuF a political priority, it is unclear what the organization's current standing is inside the UN system. In 2018, China and Russia blocked funding for the continuation of HRuF, leading to a sense of human rights being subordinated to political concerns. With dwindling interest in HRuF, it has been overtaken by the Call to Action for Human Rights.

### III. Current Issues

- Armed conflict in Myanmar has led to 2.6 million people being displaced by the end of 2023, compared to over one-third of Laos' population. Since October 2023, 628,000 people have fled to avoid threats, including landmines, and families are often forced to flee multiple times, posing a risk to their safety.
- Myanmar's population is facing significant challenges, with 18.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The country's healthcare system collapses, leading to malnutrition and hunger. The ongoing conflict also disrupts education, with 1/3 of children unable to access school due to lack of access or threats.
- Myanmar's military restricts humanitarian aid delivery, causing bureaucratic obstacles and a hostile environment. Aid workers have been killed, injured, kidnapped, and arrested in the past three years. Despite these challenges, local, civil society, and grassroots organizations continue to deliver life-saving aid to their communities.
- Myanmar is facing a \$600 million funding gap due to the UN's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, leaving 1.9 million vulnerable people without aid. The European Union has allocated €100 million for life-saving assistance, but more funding is needed as



humanitarian needs continue to rise.

- 1 million Rohingya, an ethnic minority in Myanmar, have fled violence and human rights violations since the 1990s. 600,000 remain in Rakhine, with 14% confined to camps since 2012. The European Union has allocated €35 million to support Rohingya refugees and their host communities.
- The junta impeded UN and international agencies from accessing Rakhine, preventing humanitarian actors from coordinating with the AA, which is closer to local communities. This hindered aid deliveries to over 1.6 million affected by the cyclone.
- Conflict dynamics in Myanmar are impacting humanitarian crises and responses, with 3 million internally displaced persons, the highest since independence, and a threefold increase since the 2021 coup d'état.
- Ethnic states face armed conflict, causing 900,000 internally displaced persons. Ethnic armed organizations and local aid providers, often working illicitly across borders, are crucial for relief.

#### **IV. UN Actions and Resolutions**

The UN Security Council has been largely silent on the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, with the military's abuses and attacks on civilians intensifying.



The council adopted Resolution 2669 in December 2022, condemning the Myanmar military's actions since its coup. However, the situation has deteriorated, with Myanmar's junta ramping up attacks and blocking humanitarian aid. The Council has been urged to take more meaningful steps to address rights concerns, including instituting an arms embargo, referring the situation to the International Criminal Court, and imposing targeted sanctions on military-owned companies. China and Russia continue to block

consideration of such measures, highlighting the need for the Council to act.

The United Nations plans to appoint a Special Envoy to work with ASEAN, Member States, and stakeholders to advance a Myanmar-led political solution to the Myanmar crisis, ensuring the continuation of ASEAN's efforts to implement its Five-Point Consensus.

The Council's response to the Myanmar crisis was divided, with some expressing frustration over the Council's inability to agree on a press statement or other products, while others emphasized ASEAN's role in resolving the crisis.

The UK representative emphasized the need to appoint a UN Special Envoy to address the Myanmar crisis, urging against the country becoming a forgotten crisis and condemning the ongoing airstrikes by the Myanmar Armed Forces.

The speaker for the United States highlighted Myanmar's military's 588 airstrikes in the past five months, with attacks on civilians increasing five-fold. He called for measures to restrict arms flow and jet fuel access. The situation has worsened since the last UN Special Envoy departed, with nearly 5,000 civilians killed and millions internally displaced. The representative of Malta urged the Council to end the junta's violence, return civilian rule, and ensure inclusive democracy and the rule of law. The time for decisive action is now.

The representative of the Republic of Korea highlighted the lack of a UN Special Envoy, UN Resident Coordinator, and regular Security Council meetings, stating that the scale of the Myanmar crisis necessitates more than domestic or regional efforts.

Bangladesh's speaker, who hosts a large Rohingya population from Myanmar, expressed hope for repatriation as conditions improve. He urged Myanmar to cooperate in implementing 2017 and 2018 bilateral return arrangements, highlighting the UN's limited engagement in Myanmar.



The Russian Federation representative defended Myanmar's security, stating it doesn't pose a threat and that the Council shouldn't use it to pressure Nanyidaw, and emphasized the



importance of an open meeting for non-political discussion.

China's delegate clarified that the Rakhine conflict is Myanmar's internal issue, stating that Beijing is promoting peace and dialogue, currently visiting Myanmar for communication and mediation efforts.



With a large population of Rohingya from Myanmar, the speaker for Bangladesh urged Myanmar to assist in carrying out the bilateral return agreements for 2017 and 2018, expressing hope that their repatriation can begin as soon as conditions improve. The UN's and the international community's active involvement in Myanmar is restricted, he emphasized, by the lack of a UN Special Envoy and humanitarian coordinator.

“The activation of the conscription law marks a new low in the junta's campaign against the very people it is supposed to protect,” said Malta's delegate, Council President for April, speaking in her national capacity. The military administration continues to terrorize the public by enlisting young men and women without their will. The Council has to make sure that the junta's violence comes to a stop and that the civilian government—including democracy and the rule of law—returns. “This is the moment for decisive action,” she said.

## **V. Essential Questions**

1. How has the humanitarian situation evolved since the military coup of 2021, and what are the major challenges regarding internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and human rights violations?
2. Has your country passed through something similar?
3. What has been the role of international actors, including the United Nations, ASEAN, and major global powers, in addressing the crisis, and how effective have their responses been?
4. How do the ongoing conflicts in Myanmar, particularly against ethnic minorities like the Rohingya, Karen, and Kachin, contribute to regional instability and security threats?

5. What possible diplomatic, economic, or security-based actions can the Security Council take to mitigate the crisis while respecting Myanmar's sovereignty and preventing further escalation?

## **VI. Conclusion**

To sum everything that has been stated, The Security Council, established in 1945, is a United Nations body responsible for determining threats to peace and restoring international peace and security. It is composed of 15 members, including five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The council is responsible for determining the existence of a threat to peace and recommending methods of settlement.

In 2021, Myanmar's military, the Tatmadaw, staged a coup to depose the National League for Democracy (NLD) government, leading to a massive protest movement. The coup led to a human rights crisis, with over 860 deaths as of June 2021. The state security forces have used excessive force against peaceful protesters and those opposing military rule, targeting healthcare workers and protesters. The UN system has struggled to respond to atrocity crimes, with the Human Rights Up Front (HRuF) program being overtaken by the Call to Action for Human Rights.

The conflict has led to 2.6 million people being displaced by the end of 2023, and the country faces a \$600 million funding gap. Myanmar's conflict dynamics are affecting humanitarian crises, with 3 million internally displaced persons, the highest since independence, and a threefold increase since the 2021 coup d'état.

The UN Security Council has been silent on the crisis, but has been urged to take more meaningful steps to address rights concerns, including instituting an arms embargo, referring the situation to the International Criminal Court, and imposing targeted sanctions on military-owned companies. The Council plans to appoint a Special Envoy to work with ASEAN, Member States,

and stakeholders to advance a Myanmar-led political solution.

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