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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/180](#), and covers the period from 15 August 2021 to 14 August 2022. In addition to the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, the report focuses on the deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, further restrictions of fundamental freedoms and the worsening of socioeconomic conditions, following the military takeover in February 2021. There is an urgent need for safe and unhindered access to vulnerable communities through all existing channels in line with international humanitarian principles. The report raises concern about the military's continued brutal repression of opposition groups and civilians. Thousands have been killed, including children. The multifaceted ramifications of the political crisis in Myanmar continued to widen with serious regional implications. Since February 2021, more than 40,000 people have fled Myanmar and there are now more than 1 million internally displaced persons. Rohingya people remained displaced domestically and abroad, including almost 1 million Rohingya in Bangladesh. Armed resistance proliferated and included the targeting of civilians, including by the People's Defence Forces. There has been minimal meaningful action to address the root causes that led to the forced displacement of the Rohingya population and no discernible progress on the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The ongoing crisis has led to a significant expansion in illicit activities, including trafficking in persons, and a growing number of people have taken the perilous journey across the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea in 2022. The situation requires swift implementation of the five-point consensus of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It is paramount that the country returns towards democratic transition, as well as full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

* [A/77/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/180](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and pursue discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer assistance to Myanmar and submit a report to the General Assembly on all relevant issues addressed in the resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. The present report covers the period from 15 August 2021 to 14 August 2022.

2. During the reporting period there was a significant deterioration of the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Myanmar, and a worsening of the socioeconomic conditions. Since the 1 February 2021 military takeover, armed conflict and violence have intensified, in particular the areas bordering China, India and Thailand, posing serious threats to regional stability.

3. The Secretary-General has repeatedly called on the military to respect the will of the people, to refrain from violence and repression, and to act in the greater interest of peace and stability in Myanmar and the region. He has further called for access to people in need so that the United Nations and partners can continue to deliver on the ground. An estimated 14.4 million people need humanitarian assistance, a significant increase from the 1 million targeted for support in January 2021.

4. On 1 February, one year since the Myanmar military overturned the democratically elected civilian Government and arbitrarily detained its leaders, the Secretary-General expressed his solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their democratic aspirations for an inclusive society and the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya. He stressed that his Special Envoy would continue to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address the desperate needs of the people of Myanmar, crucial for creating an enabling environment for any inclusive dialogue.

5. In its statement to the press of 8 December 2021 ([SC/14723](#)), the Security Council expressed deep concern at the sentencing of the President, Win Myint, of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and others. The Council reiterated its call for the release of all those who have been arbitrarily detained and underlined the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence and pursue constructive dialogue and reconciliation in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar, fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and upholding the rule of law.

6. On 29 December 2021, in another statement to the press ([SC/14754](#)) the Security Council condemned the killing of at least 35 people, including four children and two staff of Save the Children, in Kayah State on 24 December, and stressed the need to ensure accountability and again called for the immediate cessation of all violence and emphasized the importance of respect for human rights and safety of civilians. The Council stressed the need for unimpeded humanitarian access to all people in need and for the full protection, safety and security of humanitarian and medical personnel.

7. Marking one year of the military takeover, on 2 February the Security Council issued a statement to the press ([SC/14785](#)) in which it expressed deep concern at further violence in the country and alarm at the large numbers of internally displaced persons. The Security Council called for an immediate cessation of all forms of violence throughout Myanmar and to ensure the safety of civilians.

8. The United Nations country team in Myanmar continued to deliver for the people of Myanmar in country despite numerous challenges, including a highly polarized environment in which United Nations personnel, especially national staff,

have faced harassment from different actors and security challenges, including detentions. Inexcusably, a national staff member was assassinated. There have also been a range of operational challenges as the self-declared State Administration Council has delayed processing visas for international staff, applied a notably restrictive approach to travel authorizations, in particular in conflict-affected areas, and imposed cumbersome banking and foreign exchange rules. Scaled-back support for development assistance has affected crucial support for community-based resilience and a people-centred approach.

9. In some instances, displacement has left women and girls in internally displaced persons camps and conflict-affected areas vulnerable to forced marriage, forced pregnancy, sexual exploitation, detention and forced labour. As food insecurity has worsened, malnutrition among children is expected to continue to increase. Dramatic price increases for essential goods, including food and fuel, added to the already precarious situation. The humanitarian response plan released in January 2022 called for \$826 million in funding, a massive scale-up to meet the needs of the 6.2 million people targeted for assistance. As at March, humanitarian support had reached at least 2.6 million people despite access restrictions and under-funding. As at 19 July, the humanitarian response plan was 12 per cent funded.

10. The Rohingya within and outside the camps faced severe movement restrictions, impeded access to services and livelihoods, disenfranchisement and violations of fundamental rights. Lack of durable solutions for displaced communities, combined with renewed tensions between Myanmar armed forces (Tatmadaw) and the Arakan Army in Rakhine State, have the potential to heighten vulnerabilities of populations in Rakhine and adversely impact the creation of conditions conducive to the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and internally displaced persons.

11. Meanwhile, the Government of Bangladesh and host communities continued to generously host over 1 million refugees, hoping for concrete progress on conditions conducive to a return to their homes.

12. The brutality exercised by the Myanmar armed forces and the State Administration Council has been wide-ranging. Those expressing opposition to the military or joining democratic movements, as well as their families and associates, have been subject to arbitrary killings, detentions, disappearances, intimidation and torture. Women and transgender individuals in detention have experienced violations and degrading treatment, including lack of access to adequate toilets and menstrual hygiene supplies, and physical and verbal abuse. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), compared with the previous year, the security forces have expanded their practice of “hostage-taking” of relatives of suspects who elude them.

13. The State Administration Council continued to detain political leaders and other civilians, including civil society representatives and journalists. The State Administration Council stated it would uphold death sentences of Myanmar activists. The Secretary-General has expressed grave concern over the decision by the State Administration Council to proceed with the capital punishment of pro-democracy activists and reiterated his call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

14. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar and other United Nations entities have advocated for the protection of the important space occupied by civil society organizations. The Special Envoy has engaged extensively with civil society organizations to amplify voices from the ground and support their critical role intrinsic to the democratic transition in Myanmar.

15. Dozens of attacks on party offices of the National League for Democracy (NLD), including looting and destruction of political infrastructure, were reported. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar noted that the military had confiscated the properties and homes of many NLD members and lawmakers, as well as the assets of other political leaders associated with the National Unity Government and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and that several NLD officials had died while in custody, while other party members and supporters had been killed or threatened (A/HRC/49/76). There have also been reports of attacks by People's Defence Forces on military-affiliated Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) offices, with party officials claiming 1,500 members had been killed since the military takeover. The military has increasingly censored civil society organizations that speak out against atrocities and rights violations.

16. In March, the State Administration Council announced the revocation of the citizenship of the President of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar along with nine National Unity Government ministers and numerous others who have opposed the military takeover, including the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York. The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in its decision 28 March 2022 "deplored the termination of citizenship of prominent democracy activists, including trade unionists, in violation of international law, and called upon Myanmar to immediately restore their citizenship".¹ The National Unity Government Spokesperson and Minister of International Cooperation condemned the decision.

17. Under these circumstances, there has been little public confidence in the pledge by the State Administration Council to hold new elections in 2023 as part of its five-point road map. The Special Envoy, in her informal briefing on 13 June to the General Assembly, warned that an electoral process without a genuine, inclusive political dialogue and conditions that permitted citizens to freely exercise their political rights without fear or intimidation, risked further exacerbating violence and instability.

18. The opposition has broadly rejected new elections. The military-appointed Union Election Commission has threatened that political parties, including the NLD, could be disbanded if financial statements were not submitted by the parties. This could effectively eliminate competitive political parties. The Commission has also hinted at the possibility of changing the electoral system from the current first-past-the-post to a proportional representation system.

19. The Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar armed forces declared 2022 "the year of peace", inviting leaders of ethnic armed organizations to hold bilateral peace talks. Key ethnic armed organizations, especially those engaged in active conflict, have declined to participate; the Commander-in-Chief excluded resistance movements that are a key part of the country's current conflict dynamics, including the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, National Unity Government and National Unity Consultative Council, leaving no room for genuine and inclusive dialogue.

20. While historically many areas of the country have experienced conflict with the Myanmar armed forces, central Myanmar regions, including Sagaing and Magway, that had not seen armed conflict in recent decades, are now among the most affected areas. These areas were once home to strong supporters of the Myanmar military, but the current heavy fighting reflects widespread opposition to the Myanmar armed forces. In addition, conflict has surged between the Myanmar armed forces and the Karen National Union and the Kachin Independence Organization and their respective armed wings, after some years of fragile peace. A return to armed conflict has also

¹ International Labour Organization, document GB.344/INS/12/Decision. Available at: www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB344/ins/WCMS_840644/lang--en/index.htm.

occurred between the Tatmadaw and the Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army, based in Kayah State, and Chin National Front/Chin National Army, based in Chin State. In some cases, People's Defence Forces have been supported by ethnic armed organizations.

21. Reports have been received of some 600 local People's Defence Forces operating in various parts of the country, some of which are carrying out attacks on targets they perceive as "pro-military", including local administrators, political party members and civilians believed to be informants or otherwise associated with or supportive of the State Administration Council. The Myanmar armed forces have expanded pro-State Administration Council militias working alongside security forces, with accounts of increasing intimidation and attacks on civilians intensifying during the reporting period. There were credible reports of aerial bombardments, the large-scale burning of villages, killings of civilians, and sexual and gender-based violence by the Myanmar armed forces. The Secretary-General has called for maximum restraint by all sides.

22. While urban centres, such as Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, are less affected by the conflict than ethnic and rural areas, recent security incidents have resulted in civilian casualties and alarmed urban residents. For example, a bomb at a downtown bus stop in Yangon on 31 May reportedly killed one person and injured several civilians, underlining the growing civilian toll of indiscriminate violence.

23. The provision of basic services continued to decline significantly in the reporting period. Strikes by the civil disobedience movement in opposition to the military's attempt to rule, coupled with an erosion of public trust in national institutions, has impacted the delivery of and access to health, education and other essential services. Schools reopened in November after being closed owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic since March 2020, but teacher and student participation remained low.

24. The conflict continued to affect women and men in different ways. It continued to impact the most vulnerable the hardest, compounding pre-existing marginalization, inequalities and vulnerabilities. The number of reported incidents of sexual violence during armed clashes between the Myanmar armed forces and militias and ethnic armed organizations and People's Defence Forces increased. The United Nations has verified one incident of sexual violence by Myanmar soldiers against a child.

25. Sexual violence remained underreported, mostly owing to fear of stigma by survivors within their communities, and to limited knowledge of and access to safety, medical services, and legal assistance for survivors. Limited humanitarian access and targeted attacks against women activists also constrained channels to basic services and support for survivors, including ethnic minorities.

26. The need for humanitarian and other critical assistance, such as support for community-based resilience programmes increased significantly, while the United Nations and humanitarian partners faced greater operational challenges in delivering to all communities in need. In addition to COVID-19-related restrictions on movement, the State Administration Council, limited access to beneficiaries in many areas of the country. Disruptions in communication services, the lack of banking facilities and cash flow shortages have exacerbated existing operational challenges. Despite these factors, the United Nations has continued to deliver support to the people of Myanmar and scaled up the response, reaching 3 million people in 2021 and a further 3.1 million people in the first half of 2022 alone. The United Nations country team continued to build on lessons learned to function more effectively within the complex operating environment following the military takeover and to respond to the escalating needs for humanitarian and essential development assistance.

27. The Special Envoy, Noeleen Heyzer, formally commenced her duties on 13 December 2021, replacing Christine Schraner Burgener. The Special Envoy developed a multitrack strategy underscoring humanitarian access without discrimination, return to civilian rule, inclusive democratic institutions that deliver for all communities, and support for the Rohingya. In promoting greater coherence, the Special Envoy has focused on a coordinated international strategy grounded in regional unity to support a Myanmar-led process that reflects the will of the people. Addressing the people of Myanmar on its 74th Independence Day, the Special Envoy highlighted: “Any solution to the current crisis needs to be a Myanmar-led process, reflective of the will of the people, and honour the principles cherished by the founding leaders – unity, democracy, equality, justice and self-determination.”

28. The General Assembly and the Security Council have on several occasions urged the Special Envoy to pursue an all-stakeholder approach to this end and highlighted the importance of complementarity between the United Nations and ASEAN.² Following the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat on 16 and 17 February 2022, an outcome statement was issued encouraging the ASEAN Special Envoy to “coordinate closely with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar to ensure synergy”.³ Closer coordination between the two Special Envoys was also welcomed in the joint vision statement of the United States-ASEAN Special Summit on 13 May.⁴ This was endorsed by ASEAN Heads of States.

29. Reflective of the growing social cohesion across ethnic and political party lines, several key ethnic armed organizations and the National Unity Government have together appealed for the Special Envoy to establish an inclusive platform for discussions and impartial engagement, focusing on the emergency humanitarian situation linked to the political crisis, including by working with ASEAN and other neighbouring countries to strengthen regional and international coherence in support of a Myanmar-led process.

30. In Rakhine State, which has long been marred by communal tensions and violence, there has been some localized incremental improvement in freedom of movement for the Rohingya owing to better intercommunal relations in some areas. Community members have been key in efforts to rehabilitate intercommunal relationships and empathy by the ethnic Rakhine towards the Rohingya.

31. Civil and citizenship documentation remained inaccessible for the vast majority of the Rohingya owing to complicated and lengthy procedures, as well as prohibitive costs. Citizenship application remains contingent on possessing the National Verification Card or Identity Card for National Verification, which continue to designate Rohingya as “Bengali”. Rohingya communities continued facing serious challenges in registering the births of their children and updating household lists, which affects their freedom of movement, access to services, school enrolment and civil and other key documentation, including housing, land and property.

² General Assembly resolution 75/287; General Assembly resolution 76/180; Statement to the press on Myanmar, Security Council, 10 November 2021 (SC/14697); Statement to the press on Myanmar, Security Council, 2 February 2022 (SC/14785).

³ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Press statement by the Chair of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat, 18 February 2022. Available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2nd-round-consolidated-draft-Press-Statement-final.pdf>.

⁴ ASEAN-United States of America Special Summit 2022, Joint Vision Statement, 13 May 2022. Available at: www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/13/asean-u-s-special-summit-2022-joint-vision-statement/.

II. Context and political developments

A. Situation on the ground

Disruption of democratic transition and escalation of conflict

32. The 1 February 2021 military takeover and continued repression has disrupted democratic transition in Myanmar. The President, Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, former ministers and members of parliament, more than 200 government officials and thousands of civil society activists were detained within months. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), as at 28 July, more than 2,133 people had been killed by the security forces and more than 11,800 people remained under detention.⁵

33. The lawyers for the State Counsellor were barred by the military authorities from speaking publicly about her cases. In clearly politically motivated moves by the military, the imprisoned State Counsellor is on trial facing a range of charges that carry combined maximum sentences of more than 100 years in prison. She has been accused by the military of corruption, electoral fraud, violating the official secrets act and breaking COVID-19 rules, among others. As at 20 June, the State Counsellor had been sentenced to 11 years in prison while awaiting further trials. On 22 June, she was transferred from an undisclosed location of detention to Nay Pyi Taw Prison. The Secretary-General has repeatedly called for her release, as well as of other political prisoners and those arbitrarily detained.

34. On 7 September, the Acting President of the National Unity Government, Duwa Lashi La, announced a “people’s defensive revolution” against the State Administration Council, citing eight months of killings, torture and arrests endured by the people of Myanmar.⁶ The Myanmar armed forces continued a concerted campaign to eliminate resistance, including through aerial bombardments and the so-called “four cuts” strategy designed to deprive the opposition of key resources of funding, food, intelligence and popular support. In his 27 March speech⁷ on Armed Forces Day, the Commander-in-Chief vowed to “annihilate” opposition forces. There has been little space to advocate for a de-escalation of violence or engage in any “talks about talks”.⁸ Citing lack of any international intervention, many people in Myanmar have lamented on social media that there is no choice but to take up arms in defence against the unchecked atrocities committed by the security forces.

35. On 27 January, the National Unity Consultative Council initiated its inaugural People’s Assembly, which it designated as the “highest representative body”, to which the Consultative Council reports in its dialogue and policy advisory role. The People’s Assembly endorsed the Federal Democracy Charter outlining initial agreements on establishing a federal democratic union based on plans to adopt a new constitution through a national referendum. The Federal Democracy Charter reflects the

⁵ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup, 21 July 2022. Available at: <https://aappb.org/?p=22444>.

⁶ National Unity Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Press Release 14/2021, 13 September 2021. Available at: <https://gov.nugmyanmar.org/2021/09/13/press-release-14-2021/>.

⁷ Myanmar News Agency, Speech delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Parade of the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day on 27th March 2022, www.gnlnm.com.mm/speech-delivered-by-commander-in-chief-of-defence-services-senior-general-maha-thray-sithu-min-aung-hlaing-at-the-parade-of-the-77th-anniversary-armed-forces-day-on-27th-march-2022/.

⁸ Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Press release, 1 April 2022, <https://myanmar.un.org/en/176574-special-envoy-secretary-general-myanmar-under-secretary-general-noeleen-heyzer>.

commitment of stakeholders to building a new federal democratic constitution based on fundamental rights and inclusion.

36. The military's violence, including against peaceful protesters, has been carried out in populated civilian areas or villages. Apparent disregard for protection of civilians by the Myanmar armed forces raised serious concern about violations of international humanitarian law. Military operations have increased especially in Sagaing Region, entailing the systemic torching of thousands of homes and other buildings, including places of worship and schools according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In several instances, reports have emerged of the Myanmar armed forces burning victims alive.⁹ Documented violations included seizing of properties, extrajudicial executions, use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, forced displacement, arbitrary arrests, including of children, and forced recruitment of civilians for various purposes.

37. The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar continued to receive evidence reaffirming the preliminary conclusions of its 2021 annual report, which highlighted ongoing widespread and systematic attacks against the civilian population. The Independent Mechanism has collected substantial information of circumstances that may amount to crimes against humanity or war crimes.

38. In the context of the escalating violence in Myanmar with increasing regional implications, ASEAN and United Nations Special Envoys gave three briefings to the Security Council and two briefings to the General Assembly during the reporting period. The United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs also briefed the Security Council in November on the situation in Myanmar. In these briefings, there were repeated appeals for the Security Council to support a unified international response.

39. In her first address to the General Assembly,¹⁰ the Special Envoy underlined her direct contact with the people, and her efforts to play a bridging role and actively engage with key stakeholders in Myanmar, in the region and the international community. The Special Envoy has stressed the importance of building a stronger and equal partnership with local and informal humanitarian networks, including in border areas, to ensure aid delivery without discrimination through greater access, stronger security measures and more localized and flexible funding. In early August, the State Administration Council sent a note verbale noting they would receive a visit of the Special Envoy to Myanmar for the first time since the military takeover.

Women and peace and security

40. During the reporting period, women continued to play a significant and leading role in the civil disobedience movement and in campaigns demanding a return to democratic reforms. While many women's groups were dismantled by the State Administration Council following the military takeover, others have formed throughout the country. On 5 September, women-only protest groups formed the Women Alliance Burma, an umbrella organization to coordinate peaceful protests and support women's leadership and participation in a future federal state-building process.

41. Women's leading roles have reflected profound changes in social norms. In stark contrast to the conservative gender norms promoted by the military, women are

⁹ The Guardian, "Eleven villagers shot and burned alive by Myanmar soldiers, reports say", 8 December 2021, www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/09/eleven-villagers-shot-and-burned-alive-by-myanmar-soldiers-reports-say.

¹⁰ Remarks by Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar at the General Assembly, 13 June 2022, https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/sesg_heyzer_13june2022.pdf.

increasingly recognized and represented in democratic resistance on an equal footing with men and as leaders.

42. The development of the women, peace and security platform on Myanmar, co-facilitated by the Special Envoy and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, presents an opportunity to amplify women's key role in Myanmar as multipliers of peace, promoting social cohesion across different ethnic and religious communities.

B. Human rights issues

Fundamental freedoms and repression of democratic movements

43. According to OHCHR, the military authorities have continued to wage a campaign to suppress dissent, arresting and detaining activists, journalists, peaceful protesters, civil society leaders and politicians. Military authorities have continued to systematically use torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including beatings, suspension from ceilings and other stress positions, deprivation of food or water, solitary confinement for extended periods, electrocution, injection of unidentified drugs, forced nudity in front of others, sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, and forced ingestion of lard by Muslims. In addition, political prisoners were vulnerable to COVID-19 and the military cited it as the cause of in-custody deaths, which was impossible to independently verify.

44. Between 1 February 2021 and 16 May 2022, over 200 incidents of repression of journalists, media workers and outlets were recorded, including killings, arrests and detention, as well as criminal prosecution and raids of editorial offices, with 155 journalists arrested and 56 remaining in detention as at June 2022. At least 33 journalists are reported to be in hiding following orders for their arrest. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has condemned the killings of three journalists in Myanmar during the reporting period.

45. Temporary and long-term Internet shutdowns continued to be used by the State Administration Council to stifle people's ability to gain access to information and to communicate and share information. This has also severely affected humanitarian efforts. In November, the State Administration Council adopted an amendment to the Broadcasting Law¹¹ to add Internet-based broadcasting without a license, in addition to radio and television, as a criminal offence, causing serious concerns regarding freedom of expression and arbitrary arrest.

46. In January, a draft of the cybersecurity bill was circulated, which, if approved, would grant authorities wide-ranging powers, including direct control of network infrastructure and devices, to impose Internet shutdowns and ban access to specific websites. It would also criminalize the use of virtual private networks and further shrink the remaining civic space and endanger Internet users in Myanmar, as many users have circumvented criminalized use of the Internet, including access to social media platforms through virtual private networks.

47. There have been no improvements in domestic legislation that regulate and criminalize the movements of people without proper travel and citizenship documents. This continues to disproportionately affect the Rohingya.

48. According to the United Nations Development Programme, the mass displacement since the military takeover has created an enabling environment for land

¹¹ Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State Administration Council, Second Amendment Law to the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law, State Administration Council Law No. 63/2021, 1 November 2021, as reported in Global New Light of Myanmar, 2 November 2021, https://cdn.myanmarseo.com/file/client-cdn/2021/11/PDesz1jd-2_Nov_21_gnlm.pdf.

grabs and property confiscation, including as a measure to persecute political opponents and their families. At least 570 houses and buildings were seized by the State Administration Council between 1 February 2021 and April 2022.

49. In line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the Special Envoy continued her regular consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with international human rights mechanisms and United Nations entities, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Independent Mechanism.

Accountability

50. Accountability for crimes committed in Myanmar remains a crucial element for any progress towards sustainable peace, the protection of civilians and the promotion and protection of human rights. The Myanmar armed forces continued to operate with impunity throughout the reporting period.¹²

51. National formal justice mechanisms and institutions have not been able to provide accountability, and the separation of powers was undermined by the military authorities (A/HRC/49/76). The Supreme Court suspended constitutional writs that could have been a potential check on judicial and executive power. Courts in general have prioritized political over ordinary cases. Judges broadly failed to provide comprehensive reasoning based on the principles of fair trial rights and presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Military tribunals and special courts inside prisons that deny fundamental fair trial rights have issued harsh sentences, including for civilians on dubious grounds often linked to alleged corruption, effectively removing a range of perceived military opponents. Lawyers performing their functions have faced threats from military officials, court staff and unidentified individuals.

52. August 2022 marks five years since the clearance operations against the Rohingya people by the military in 2017, the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees depends on addressing the root causes of their displacement and, in large part, on ensuring accountability for those responsible for atrocities committed against them.

53. By the end of the reporting period, the Independent Mechanism, while unable to gain access to Myanmar, had collected and processed nearly 2 million information items, including interview statements, documentation, videos, photographs, satellite imagery and social media for analysis. The Independent Mechanism prepared 38 evidence packs and analytical documents to share with relevant authorities, including judicial authorities in Argentina, and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and the State parties in the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar* before the International Court of Justice. Following the announcement by the State Administration Council of execution orders of pro-democracy activists, the Independent Mechanism noted that the death sentences announced by the Myanmar military may constitute a serious international crime.¹³ On 25 July, the State Administration Council announced

¹² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Update on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Statement by Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 September 2021. Available at: www.ohchr.org/en/2021/09/update-situation-human-rights-myanmar-statement-michelle-bachelet-un-high-commissioner.

¹³ Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, Statement by Nicholas Koumjian, Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, 20 June 2022. Available at: <https://iimm.un.org/death-sentences-announced-by-myanmar-military-may-constitute-a-serious-international-crime/>.

that the executions had been carried out.¹⁴ The Secretary-General, the Security Council, numerous Member States and others issued statements condemning the executions.

54. The International Court of Justice held four public hearings between 21 and 28 February on the preliminary objections raised by Myanmar in January 2021. On 22 July the Court delivered its judgement in which it rejected all four preliminary objections and found that it had jurisdiction, on the basis of Article IX of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to entertain the application filed by the Gambia on 11 November 2019, and that said application was admissible.¹⁵ The investigation of the International Criminal Court is ongoing and the process before the Argentinian judicial system through the exercise of universal jurisdiction remains pending. In Türkiye, its authorities opened an investigation into members of the State Administration Council, including the Myanmar armed forces Commander-in-Chief, on crimes committed after 1 February 2021 under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

55. From 11 to 14 April, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide visited Bangladesh, where she highlighted the need to ensure accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar and continued to advocate for their safe, dignified, sustainable and voluntary return with full access to rights, including citizenship.

Human rights of children

56. Children continued to be arbitrarily arrested and detained as a tactic to pressure their family members. Since February 2021, at least 330 children have been detained, 280 are still in detention. Among those still detained, 11 are under three years old and 54 have been taken as hostages. Three children have been sentenced, two of whom were given the death penalty. Subsequent to their sentencing, their case was transferred to a juvenile court, where they will be retried because of their age. During the reporting period, the number of violations against children remained significant, with a sharp increase of children being killed and maimed in 2022. Attacks on, and military use of, schools has also resulted in lack of education opportunities for children. The United Nations has provided legal support to more than 400 children in detention.

57. The increase in internal displacement is putting children at higher risk of serious abuses, including recruitment and use by parties to conflict, sexual exploitation, trafficking and detention.

58. Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and military takeover have obstructed the learning of about 12 million children and young people. The enrolment rate for the 2021–2022 academic year was low and varied widely around the country.¹⁶ Considering limited data availability, reports indicated that 5.6 million children were enrolled in school as of June, but millions more denied access to safe and continuous learning.

59. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that about 700,000 children remained without access to routine immunizations since the military takeover. Routine immunization data has shown a decrease in nationwide measles vaccination coverage from 91 per cent in 2020 to 34 per cent in 2021. The country is at a very high risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, especially in peri-urban areas and those that are not controlled by the military. Without urgent action and expanded resources, ongoing disruption to routine immunization and other health services in Myanmar will

¹⁴ See: https://cdn.myanmarseo.com/file/client-cdn/gnlm/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/25_July_22_gnlm.pdf.

¹⁵ International Court of Justice, Press release on the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*The Gambia v. Myanmar*).

¹⁶ Save the Children, Press Release, 1 June 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-number-children-out-school-more-doubles-two-years>.

result in an additional 25,000 child deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases in 2022, according to estimates from the World Health Organization.¹⁷

60. The United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict continued its engagement with parties to the conflict, including the Myanmar armed forces, to renew their commitment to the implementation of the action plan concluded in 2021 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. In addition, a meeting of the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict was held in September 2021 to highlight the situation of children in Myanmar and identify ways to provide relevant support.

C. Most vulnerable communities

Multiple vulnerabilities and displacement

61. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 1.2 million people remain internally displaced across Myanmar as at July, with over 866,000 fleeing their homes since the military takeover and more than 346,000 people in protracted displacement situations from other conflicts prior to 2021.¹⁸

62. Access to displaced populations and conflict-affected areas continued to be severely challenged by ongoing violence and restrictions imposed by the military,¹⁹ frequently placing a heavy burden on local humanitarian actors to find alternative ways to deliver assistance. Furthermore, the failure by parties to the conflict to recognize the impartiality of humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons has led to increased safety and security concerns for humanitarian actors, who have in some instances been targeted as alleged sympathizers.

63. As part of the efforts by ASEAN to implement the five-point consensus, ASEAN Secretary-General and his Special Envoy organized a Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar on 6 May where the State Administration Council representatives made commitments to support ASEAN humanitarian efforts and access.²⁰ The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and representatives of United Nations entities based in Myanmar and the region participated in the meeting.

64. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General has engaged closely with the ASEAN Chair and his Special Envoy regarding humanitarian assistance, as she consistently advocates for the delivery of humanitarian aid without discrimination through all available channels. She has urged ASEAN leaders and donors to prioritize principled engagement with diverse local humanitarian networks to deliver aid to all communities in need and in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

¹⁷ Preliminary estimates by the World Health Organization, based on Live Saved Tool using the assumption that current disruptions to service provision will result in a level of service uptake of 10 to 30 per cent of pre-COVID and pre-military takeover levels.

¹⁸ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Myanmar Emergency Overview, 25 July 2022. Available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94445>.

¹⁹ See: www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/09/myanmar-un-expert-says-current-international-efforts-failing-calls-change.

²⁰ ASEAN, Outcomes of the Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, 6 May 2022, press release. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/press-release-outcomes-consultative-meeting-asean-humanitarian-assistance-myanmar-6>.

Voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees

65. More than 1 million²¹ Rohingya refugees remain in Bangladesh and the region, the majority of whom desire to return to Myanmar once conditions are in place for their safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified return.

66. Senior-level United Nations officials, including the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Head of the Independent Mechanism, have visited Bangladesh in the past year to assess the situation and ensure the plight of the Rohingya people is not forgotten.

67. The joint response plan²² for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was funded at 72 per cent in 2021. The joint response plan for 2022 was launched in March and seeks over \$881 million to meet the needs of more than 1.4 million people, including refugees and the most affected host communities, and by June, had been funded at only 13 per cent. As overcrowding and protection issues in the camps remain a challenge, some 28,000 Rohingya refugees have been relocated to Bhasan Char by the Government of Bangladesh. The humanitarian community has strengthened the humanitarian response on Bhasan Char following a memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of Bangladesh with UNHCR on behalf of the United Nations in October 2021. The High Commissioner for Refugees²³ called for continued strong Government leadership on the island, enhanced education services, skills development and livelihood initiatives. The Government of Bangladesh implemented a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic for Rohingya refugees and affected host communities. More than 88 per cent of the refugee population over 18 years have received COVID-19 vaccinations, with vaccinations of those under 18 recently beginning in the camps.

68. In Rakhine, more than 144,000 internally displaced Rohingya remained confined in camps unable to access livelihoods or more than rudimentary education and health services, with another 400,000 living outside the camps but still subject to severe movement restrictions, disenfranchisement and rights violations. Many camps are subject to flooding, while shelters remain in need of repair, leaving families at risk of exposure to the elements, especially during heavy rains. Maternal deaths and other health concerns could have been addressed had there been unimpeded freedom of movement and access to health care.

69. Attempts by the NLD government and the current military regime to implement durable solutions for internally displaced Rohingya people in Rakhine have failed to account for the desire articulated by many to return to their villages of origin. As part of the steps towards closure of the Kyauk Talone internally displaced persons camp, the construction of infrastructure in flood-prone relocation sites has continued despite requests by internally displaced persons to return to their places of origin.

70. The United Nations Development Programme and UNHCR continued to implement quick impact projects in northern Rakhine, providing improved access to clean drinking water, enhanced livelihoods and income-generating activities. The

²¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “UNHCR’s Grandi urges redoubled support for Rohingya refugees, host communities in Bangladesh”, 25 May 2022. Available at: www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2022/5/628e04824/unhcrs-grandi-urges-redoubled-support-rohingya-refugees-host-communities.html.

²² United Nations Bangladesh Resident Coordinator Office, 2022 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (January–December 2022), 29 March 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/2022-joint-response-plan-rohingya-humanitarian-crisis-january-december-2022>.

²³ UNHCR, Press Release, 25 May 2022, www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2022/5/628e04824/unhcrs-grandi-urges-redoubled-support-rohingya-refugees-host-communities.html.

quick-impact projects have benefited over 35,000 people, including Rohingya and Rakhine people. A post-intervention evaluation reported positive impacts on livelihoods, income generation, employment and social cohesion among community members and between communities.

71. Although the situation remains fragile, there has been some incremental improvement of intercommunal relationships through increased freedom of movement without threats from nearby communities and greater economic and social interaction between communities in Rakhine State. Nearly 200 Rohingya students were enrolled in Sittwe University by the admissions deadline of 17 June. However, Rohingya students were not able to choose some specializations and there were concerns about access to the university owing to legal restrictions on freedom of movement. The wider issue obstacles to education for Rohingya children remained unaddressed.

Regional ramifications

72. The lack of basic rights for Rohingya in Myanmar, challenging conditions in exile and absence of foreseeable solutions have continued to drive irregular movements both by sea and land. About 630 Rohingya, the majority of whom were women and children, travelled, or attempted to travel, by sea from Bangladesh and Myanmar in the first five months of 2022 according to UNHCR.²⁴ This exceeded the total number of persons who attempted sea journeys in all of 2021. During this period, 65 people died or went missing during the sea journey, more than double the figure for 2021.

73. The multifaceted crisis in Myanmar has created cross-border displacement. As at 6 June, over 40,000 people remained displaced in India and Thailand.²⁵

74. Meanwhile, illicit activities have expanded, in particular the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and money laundering related to regional drug trafficking networks, which have had direct impacts on the entire region.²⁶

75. There remains a correlation between the illicit economies and the lack of governance and instability in Myanmar. The expansion of illicit drug production and trafficking appears to have further accelerated between 2021 and 2022, as shown by significant increases in seizures of synthetic drugs. The opium economy is regaining traction as a crisis-resilient income generator, especially in traditionally disadvantaged communities in some parts of rural Myanmar.²⁷

76. Myanmar is also a major source of illegal mining; smuggling of minerals and other natural resources is also an issue, in addition to illegal logging, which contributes to deforestation and biodiversity loss.

77. Following assumption of the role as ASEAN Chair in January, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen, visited Myanmar and met with the Myanmar armed forces Commander-in-Chief to support the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus. From 21 to 23 March, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Prak Sokhonn, led a delegation to visit Myanmar. The ASEAN Special Envoy made a second visit to Myanmar on 29 and 30 June, in a further attempt to seek progress on

²⁴ UNHCR, Press release, 23 May 2022. Available at: www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2022/5/628b77184/unhcr-shocked-rohingya-deaths-boat-tragedy-myanmar-coast.html.

²⁵ UNHCR, Myanmar displacement overview, 11 July 2022. Available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94210>.

²⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Myanmar Opium Survey 2021, Cultivation, Production and Implications, 8 April 2022 (p. 1), www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Myanmar/Myanmar_Opium_survey_2021.pdf.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 2.

humanitarian access. His request to visit State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi was denied.

78. The Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator visited Myanmar from 20 to 22 September 2021 to discuss the COVID-19 response.

79. The Special Envoy has worked in close coordination and dialogue with ASEAN counterparts to ensure complementarity. She has been in close contact with all ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Chair. In January, the Special Envoy together with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia initiated the development of the Women and Peace and Security Platform on Myanmar that they co-chair, with a view to promoting Myanmar women community leaders as agents of positive change in helping to shape the country's collective future and amplifying their voices.

80. The Special Envoy has continued to engage closely with other regional organizations, including the European Union and Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in particular the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on the Rohingya Muslim Minority, on efforts to address the Rohingya crisis and broader political and humanitarian developments. She has been mobilizing international support to expand education opportunities to prevent a lost generation inside Myanmar and in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

D. Coronavirus disease, public health and the socioeconomic situation

81. The aftermath of the military takeover combined with the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating with severe socioeconomic consequences for the population. While the economy had already weakened going into 2021, the military takeover led to a further reduction in economic activities owing to protests, security concerns and disruptions of critical business infrastructure, including banking and logistics, which eroded confidence in domestic and international investment. The State Administration Council decision in April to impose strict regulation of United States dollars in banking and trade has had serious socioeconomic consequences.²⁸

82. While both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund halted most of their operations in Myanmar in 2021, the United Nations, including through its country team, continued to cooperate closely with both organizations in the light of the sociopolitical crisis. The World Bank has assessed that the series of external and internal disruptions to the economy of Myanmar have impeded recovery from the large contraction of 18 per cent of Myanmar's gross domestic product (GDP) last year. The GDP of Myanmar in 2022 is estimated to still be around 13 per cent lower than in 2019. In the absence of a substantial rebound in growth, livelihoods and coping mechanisms will continue to be severely strained. The World Bank also noted that about 40 per cent of the population is living below the national poverty line in 2022.²⁹

²⁸ OHCHR, 50th session of the Human Rights Council Oral update on Myanmar, 14 June 2022. Available at: www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/50th-session-human-rights-council-oral-update-myanmar.

²⁹ World Bank, Myanmar Economic Monitor July 2022: reforms reversed. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/publication/myanmar-economic-monitor-july-2022-reforms-reversed.

83. UNDP estimates that 25 million people were living on incomes below the poverty line in early 2022,³⁰ which represented about 46 per cent of the population of Myanmar. According to ILO, at least 1.6 million jobs were lost in 2021, with women disproportionately affected.³¹

84. The World Food Programme estimates that over 13.2 million people (one quarter of the population of Myanmar) across the country were moderately or severely food insecure, with concerning implications for malnutrition this year.³² In addressing the consequences of the severe socioeconomic situation, United Nations programming in the country has focused on supporting community-based resilience, with programmes directly benefiting civilian populations and local communities.

85. The driving forces of the food security crisis are low crop productivity, input price increases, lack of access to microfinance, banking challenges, loss of employment and income sources, rising fuel prices and escalating conflict, among other factors.³³ Myanmar imports almost all of its fertilizer from abroad. Fertilizer prices started increasing in 2019 with COVID-19 restrictions, with the cost during the reporting period 3.6 times higher than in 2019 and high-quality seeds increasingly unavailable or unaffordable. In the context of community-based resilience support since January, the Food and Agriculture Organization assisted 83,010 people through the provision of staple crop seeds and fertilizers, along with the implementation of cash-based interventions, enabling them to produce their own food and meet basic needs.

86. Between 15 August 2021 and 19 July 2022, there were 256,870 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 5,060 COVID-19-related deaths reported in Myanmar according to WHO.³⁴ The breakdown of essential health services following the pandemic and military takeover continue to challenge the health-care system. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, during the reporting period, neighbouring countries provided over 41 million vaccines to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to support the people of Myanmar.

III. Observations

87. The multidimensional crisis in Myanmar requires immediate action on the part of the international community. In coordination with ASEAN, my Special Envoy continues to work with all stakeholders towards a Myanmar-led cessation of violence and addressing the multiple vulnerabilities of affected communities. The people in Myanmar are looking to the international community to support their aspirations for democracy, human rights and governance, recognizing the strength of its diversity.

88. As I warned in my last report, a multidimensional catastrophe in the heart of Southeast Asia is steadily unfolding. I continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their democratic aspirations for an inclusive society, and for the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya. I repeat my call for the Myanmar armed forces and all stakeholders to respect human rights, fundamental

³⁰ United Nations Development Programme, Press Release, 1 December 2021, www.undp.org/asia-pacific/press-releases/myanmar-urban-poverty-rates-set-triple-new-united-nations-survey-finds.

³¹ International Labour Organization, Press release, 28 January 2022, www.ilo.org/yanmar/press/WCMS_835953/lang--en/index.htm.

³² World Food Programme Myanmar Emergency Portal, accessed 21 July 2022, www.wfp.org/emergencies/myanmar-emergency.

³³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Myanmar response overview. Available at: https://myanmar.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/FAO_cc0700en.pdf.

³⁴ WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) dashboard, <https://covid19.who.int/region/searo/country/mm>.

freedoms and the will of the people. Member State unity, including in the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as within ASEAN, is vital. There is a need for the international community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and support for community-based resilience, working with Myanmar stakeholders, including at the local level, free from discrimination and political instrumentalization, to all those in need. As international efforts continue to support a Myanmar-led process, a visit to Myanmar by my Special Envoy could help in this regard.

89. ASEAN has a critical role to play, and I remain committed to our continued collaboration. The five-point consensus provides clear goals in its calls for an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar, constructive dialogue among all parties concerned, dialogue assisted by the Secretary-General of ASEAN, ASEAN-facilitated humanitarian assistance and a visit by the ASEAN Special Envoy to meet with all parties concerned. I reiterate the support of the United Nations for efforts by ASEAN to advocate for relevant authorities in Myanmar to address the root causes of the conflict and to resolve the refugee crisis, including for the Rohingya.

90. I strongly condemn the executions carried out in July by the Myanmar military against four political activists. These executions, the first since 1988 in Myanmar, mark a further deterioration of the already dire human rights environment in Myanmar. I am concerned by the continued killings of civilians, including children and humanitarian workers, and escalating casualties from indiscriminate attacks, aerial bombings, landmines and other explosives, as well as forced recruitment. These are blatant violations of the right to life, liberty and security of person. I also reiterate my calls for the respect of people's rights to freedom of opinion and expression, for all charges to be dropped against those arrested for having exercised their fundamental freedoms and rights, and for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Myanmar.

91. The State Administration Council has not heeded my call for full and unimpeded humanitarian access to assist those in need. People continued to face multiple vulnerabilities and urgently require humanitarian and community-based resilience support. Despite a system-wide coherent humanitarian strategy, the rapid expansion of areas experiencing active fighting in the past year continued to challenge efforts to respond to acute and increasing needs. The Myanmar armed forces and all parties to the armed conflict must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, including to facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of relief for those in need, especially in the face of increasing food insecurity. The humanitarian response plan is severely under-funded. I urge Member States to simultaneously work to help to resolve the political crisis while attending to the urgent humanitarian needs.

92. Most vulnerable communities, including the Rohingya, require protection, and it is imperative to address the root causes of the conflict. Structural issues related to citizenship, fundamental rights and freedoms, and equality before the law must be addressed in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. Accountability for serious crimes committed in Myanmar, including against the Rohingya and other minorities, remains essential. Relevant mechanisms such as the Independent Mechanism can help to facilitate justice and accountability for past crimes and contribute to the deterrence of further atrocities. I urge full cooperation with those mechanisms, including access to Myanmar, witnesses, victims, and crime scenes. I further urge Member States, particularly those in the region where most of the evidence and witnesses are located, to fully cooperate with the Independent Mechanism and ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place to enable it to work in their territories.

93. Measures must be put in place to ensure that internally displaced persons and refugees can return safely and voluntarily to places of origin and choice. This will

support sustainability of solutions, contribute to resilience and strengthen social cohesion in communities of return. This requires a principled implementation of the National Strategy on Resettlement of internally displaced persons and Closure of internally displaced persons Camps. internally displaced persons must not be pressured to return or be relocated to unsafe areas with limited access to services and livelihoods. Given the continuing deterioration of the socioeconomic situation of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable populations, with increasing poverty and food insecurity, unimpeded access to address essential development needs will be vital.

94. In this context, my Special Envoy's initiatives to advance a Women and Peace and Security Platform on Myanmar co-facilitated with the Indonesian Foreign Minister, and to establish an inclusive platform for discussions and impartial engagement with key ethnic armed organizations and the National Unity Government, will be instrumental in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Myanmar.

95. I am deeply saddened by and strongly condemn the death of Myo Min Htut, a World Health Organization staff member, who was shot dead on 8 June. As the United Nations country team has urged and called for, all parties and stakeholders must respect the status of officials of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and related organizations, including their neutrality and the humanitarian nature of their work. I also wish to stress the need for all parties and stakeholders to protect the rights and safety of civilians.

96. The complex operational environment for the United Nations and its partners in Myanmar requires full support from Member States. The United Nations, through its presence in Myanmar, remains committed to stay and deliver with a focus on humanitarian assistance and priority development needs at the local level. Reflective of the Organization's commitment to strengthen system-wide coherence, the United Nations country team, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, continued efforts to strengthen capacities to engage on human rights, leverage all available channels and put in place systems to ensure human rights remained a key priority and are mainstreamed in all programmes and activities. The United Nations continues to strengthen internal mechanisms and enhance cross-pillar coherence under the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, as well as information-sharing throughout the United Nations system in line with the recommendations of the 2019 Rosenthal review.

97. The situation in Myanmar has seen an expansion of the multiple vulnerabilities of all people across the country, with an intensification in violence, a deepening of the human rights and humanitarian crises and a rapid rise of poverty. In these difficult times, I stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their aspirations for a democratic and inclusive society and the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya.
