United Nations Security Council Arria formula meeting on Myanmar
Crisis, Conflict and COVID – where are we now?

Date: 29 July 2021
Time: 10:30am – 1:00pm
Venue: VTC

Participation:
UN Security Council members and ASEAN member states are invited to participate. Participants are encouraged to limit interventions to 3 minutes.

Objectives:
To hear the perspectives of the pro-democracy movement and ethnic voices from within Myanmar on the ongoing crisis, and to consider how the international community can help address the challenges, including through democratic processes and the rule of law, progress towards ASEAN’s ‘five-point consensus’, the humanitarian context and the rapidly deteriorating COVID-19 situation.

Background:
This Arria meeting provides a platform for voices within Myanmar to brief on the current situation from their perspective and those of the people that they represent and will be an opportunity to understand the evolving objectives of the pro-democracy movement, and their views on progress against the Consensus.

What began as a political coup has become a multifaceted crisis, with political, economic, health and humanitarian dimensions. The UN estimates that 200,000 people have been displaced since 1 February. With 60% of healthcare facilities not functioning, COVID and other lifesaving vaccinations cannot be administered. Public health experts in Myanmar predict that 50% of the country’s population could be infected with either the Alpha or Delta variants of COVID-19 within three weeks.

The Arria meeting is an opportunity to understand in more detail the complex crisis Myanmar is now facing and to consider what more the international community can do to mitigate the associated risks to international peace and security, including the call in UN Security Council resolution 2565 for a “general and immediate cessation of hostilities and that all parties to armed conflicts engage immediately in a durable, extensive, and sustained humanitarian pause to facilitate, inter alia, the equitable, safe and unhindered delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in areas of armed conflict”.

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The international community has an important role to play in addressing the crisis. The Security Council has to date issued several robust and unified statements. Regional actors, in particular ASEAN, continue to play a leading role, and the Five Point Consensus agreed at the April 24 ASEAN Leaders Meeting is an important foundation. The Tatmadaw must take their commitments seriously and urgently implement the Consensus.

Guiding questions:

(a) How can Council members encourage urgent progress on implementation of ASEAN’s 5-point consensus?

(b) The developing COVID crisis is compounding an already critical humanitarian situation with implications for the entire region. What steps should the Security Council consider to implement resolution 2565 in the case of Myanmar?

Briefers:

1. Ms. Susanna Hla Hla Soe, Minister for Women, National Unity Government

2. Mr. Gum San Nsang, Secretary General of the Kachin Political Interim Coordination Team (KPICT)

Logistics:

The meeting will take place via video conference (VTC) and will be streamed live and opened to the public through UN WebTV (TBC). Further technical details will follow.

The meeting will be held in English and no simultaneous interpretation is offered.

There will be a statement by the briefers followed by UN Security Council members and those ASEAN Member States wishing to do so. In order to allow as many participants as possible, each intervention should be limited to 3 minutes.

Please submit the attached registration form to Mariea Sekijima (Mariea.Sekijima@fcdo.gov.uk) to confirm your attendance by 1800 on 28 July.