



## Arria-formula meeting on Myanmar, 29 May 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, Chair. I begin by thanking the UK for organizing this timely Arria, and I also thank UNICEF for their important statement.

Malta is profoundly concerned by reports of renewed violence and destruction in Rakhine State, resulting in the displacement of potentially tens of thousands of civilians, primarily Rohingya. We urge the Myanmar military and all armed groups to cease fighting, protect civilians, comply with international law, and to immediately allow full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access. This includes through implementing the binding order of the International Court of Justice for the protection of the Rohingya people.

We regret that the Council is not able to speak with one voice on this matter. No matter how bleak the present situation may appear, this must not become an excuse for the Council to avoid taking further action.

We reiterate the need for strengthened UN leadership on Myanmar and welcome Ms Julie Bishop as UN Special Envoy.



## Chair

Three years ago, when the Myanmar military overthrew the elected government, it was young persons, especially young women, who led the national movement for justice, democracy, and freedom. In the aftermath, we witnessed egregious international crimes, including violent suppression of protests, arbitrary arrests, torture, and sexual violence.

The perpetrators of these crimes must be held accountable before impartial and independent courts. We fully support the ongoing work of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar in this regard.

Children and young persons continue to bear the brunt of the Myanmar military's ongoing attacks to assert control over the territory. Instead of heeding their calls for a democratic, federalist, and pluralist future, the Myanmar military is now forcing young persons to join their ranks to fight against their own people. Many are fleeing the country to escape the junta's reign of terror, making them vulnerable to human traffickers and transnational criminal organisations.



We are alarmed at the surge in grave violations against children, who are exposed to indiscriminate violence, shootings, and arbitrary arrests on a daily basis. All parties must end and prevent the recruitment of children, take measures to protect children during operations, end the detention and torture and ill-treatment of children in captivity, and immediately and unconditionally release all children from their ranks.

We condemn the military's intentional blockade of humanitarian aid, which is leading to critical food and medicine shortages throughout the country, but particularly in Rakhine's Rohingya IDP camps, where children are dying from preventable diseases.

We are horrified by the deaths of civilians, including many children, due to the Myanmar military's indiscriminate airstrikes on civilian targets like schools and hospitals. This brutality is fuelled by a steady supply of arms, weapons, and technology from external sources. We reiterate our calls on this Council to reassess the situation in Myanmar and cut off the military's access to weapons and related materials used to commit these atrocities.



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The people of Myanmar deserve a future where children are safe from recruitment into armed groups, young persons meaningfully participate in peace negotiations, and the military is accountable to civilians. To realise this, the Security Council must take action to end the violence and promote civilian rule, democracy, and the rule of law in line with Security Council Resolution 2669 and ASEAN's 5 point consensus.

I thank you.