



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unscc.gov.au

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING ON MYANMAR

9 April 2021

**Written Statement by H.E. The Hon. Mitch Fifield,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the
United Nations**

Australia remains gravely concerned about the deteriorating situation in Myanmar, as well as the threat this poses to regional stability and international peace and security.

We continue to condemn the shocking violence being perpetrated against the people of Myanmar and the use of lethal force against those exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. We once again call on Myanmar's security forces to exercise restraint and refrain from violence in response to peaceful protests. The killing of children is especially indefensible.

We strongly urge the immediate and unconditional release of the over 2,800 people arbitrarily detained.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of these events on humanitarian crises across the country, and the setback they pose to prospects for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingyas and other displaced persons.

We call on the military to engage in dialogue and return the country to the path of democratic transition. We also call on the military to permit the UN Special Envoy to visit Myanmar as soon as possible.

Australia will continue to play a constructive role with international and regional partners, particularly ASEAN, in seeking to de-escalate the situation and support efforts towards a peaceful resolution. We welcome ASEAN's plans to hold a special leaders' meeting on Myanmar.

We continue to support international efforts to pursue accountability for atrocities committed in Myanmar, including efforts by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of ongoing serious international crimes and violations of international law.

Australia stands with the people of Myanmar in rejecting this coup. The violence and disrespect for their views we are witnessing are unacceptable. The international community must continue to push collectively and individually for de-escalation, dialogue and a peaceful return to democracy.