



Statement of Ireland

76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

*Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,
Mr. Thomas H. ANDREWS*

22 October 2021

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Ireland has repeatedly condemned the coup and its devastating effect on the human rights situation in Myanmar. More than 500,000 people are now displaced, with continued reports of murder, torture, arbitrary detention, attacks against civilians and sexual violence – the ‘brutal campaign’ as detailed in your report.

To this catalogue of human rights violations, we must add the plight of the more than one million Rohingya living in extremely precarious conditions outside of Myanmar, losing sight of their dream of returning to their homeland.

Ireland agrees that the coup poses a national and regional security threat.

Ireland calls for an immediate ceasefire to guarantee safe, unhindered, unconditional and rapid access to humanitarian assistance for all in need. Humanitarian aid is not a political act and Ireland endorses clear separation between political and humanitarian processes in Myanmar. Humanitarian space must be protected.

The response of the people of Myanmar to the coup, including courageous human rights defenders, journalists, civil society members and medical workers, demonstrates that the Tatmadaw have no mandate to govern. We should stand with the people of Myanmar by avoiding actions which would imply the legitimacy of the military junta. We cannot allow the current situation to become normalised or allow impunity for heinous crimes.

Failure to maintain significant and sustained pressure on the military will set a dangerous precedent.

Mr Andrews, what is the most effective pressure that the international community can apply to bring the military to engage in meaningful and inclusive dialogue?

Thank you.

[265 words]