

JejuMUN XI

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

1 | Resolving international conflicts and human rights violations in the Burmese Civil War Crisis

SDG: 10. Reduced Inequality | 15. Life on Land | 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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Committee Introduction

The Security Council takes full charge of preserving international peace and security and managing conflicts of nations. The council identifies aggressive elements that threaten peace and engages with its member nations to resolve conflicts diplomatically. If it is thought to be necessary, the Council may proceed more assertively by using force or imposing international economic or political sanctions. It is the only entity with authority to regulate crisis or conflict management peacekeeping operations. Since the decisions of the Council are legally binding on all Member States of the United Nations; they must comply with the Council's decisions.

It comprises a total of 15 member states, five of which are permanent members (China, France, Russia, United States, and the United Kingdom), and ten of which are elective and temporary, each with a 2-year long tenure. Every UNSC member state gets one vote. Every resolution needs the approval of at least 9 member states, along with the votes of all permanent members who haven't abstained, for it to be passed. If any of the five permanent nations casts a negative substantive vote, the resolution automatically fails as the nations can exercise their veto power. Permanent members have the right to abstain, which means that a resolution may pass without the vote of a P5 nation.

By the UN charter, the UNSC has the right to place restrictions such as economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and travel bans, as well as severing diplomatic relations with a country altogether. It even has the right to execute collective military action of the United States, and has a designated military observance force named the Blue Helmet. However, the UNSC usually strongly recommends reaching an agreement by peaceful, diplomatic means. The UNSC can issue ceasefires and hold peaceful conferences between disputing parties.

The UNSC's chief concern during military conflict is to end it as quickly as possible, minimize casualties, and financial losses, and create an environment where the conflicting parties have the opportunity to settle their conflict through diplomacy. When the threat of military conflict is significant, it is the UNSC's priority to prevent it. However, it is also tasked with securing the human rights of people affected by the conflict, which may force the SC to use its powers to restrain either side of the conflict, if it considers the danger is uncontrollable. It is the job of each of the member states of the UN to decide which conflicting values to prioritize.

Agenda Introduction

The UNSC is deeply concerned with the ongoing civil conflicts in Myanmar. The current military rule in Myanmar has led to a multitude of political problems on a national and international level. It is the duty of the Security Council to resolve these issues and to ensure the human rights of Burmese citizens in accordance with the sixteenth Sustainable Development Goal, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'.

The protracted civil war in Myanmar significantly impacts not only the Asia-Pacific region but the whole world, as nations without a centralized governing power may become hubs for organized transnational crime, including drug trafficking and cybercrime. Therefore, the agenda for this year's Security Council is not only to resolve national issues within Myanmar but to explore and address the far-reaching international consequences of the conflict as well.

The immediate cause of the Burmese civil war lies in the 2021 coup by the Tatmadaw (the Burmese national military), which overthrew the government led by the democratically elected president Win Myint. The subsequent repression of anti-coup demonstrations led to the formation of armed groups to combat the totalitarian junta. The opposition coalesced around the National Unity Government (NUG), which declared war against the military rule. The subsequent conflict has resulted in over 50,000 casualties and severely destabilized Myanmar. The goal of this committee is to explore the complex political interactions between the Burmese military and civilians that has given rise to this conflict. Delegates will engage in discussions about historical context, human rights violations, and international considerations. As much as possible, the discussion should center around bringing about a swift end to the conflict, saving human lives dignity, and reaching a peaceful resolution. The stakeholders in this issue are not limited to the government and citizens of Myanmar, but include other world powers such as China and the United States.

The focus should not only be on stopping the conflict but also on assisting Myanmar's transition into a fully functioning democratic state, providing humanitarian aid, and pursuing regional stability. Solutions should include feasible ways to foster dialogue between main stakeholders and moderate the degree of SC intervention in order to minimize damage.

Letter from the Chairs

Greetings, Delegates!

This is Benjamin, Andy and Riwon, your chairs for UNSC. We are delighted to invite you to this year's JejuMUN conference.

This year, JejuMUN's Security Council will be tackling the issue of social unrest in Myanmar, sprouting from a military coup in 1948 and continuing to this day, fueled by ethnic, economical and political tensions. Like many agendas addressed by the Council, this conflict is multi-faceted and implies grave consequences to human rights.

The Security Council is unique in that it deals with issues where independent member states tend to have very distinct points of view, and the stakes of the debate are very high. You will be presented with the challenge of engaging in diplomacy, sacrificing some of your own goals for the sake of cooperation and the induction of a negotiation. As you navigate the social, economical and political complexities of this issue, we hope that you will learn more about conflicts around the world and develop an advanced perspective on the solutions to these issues.

It is our pleasure to guide you through the uniquely invigorating, passionate and gratifying experience of MUN. We look forward to seeing you at the conference and building one the most epic, chaotic, affecting and hopefully successful committees together.

Key Terms

Asylum seekers

Asylum seekers are people who have fled their home country due to reasons such as, but not limited to, social oppression, war, natural disaster and other violations of human rights. They approach another nation and request to be allowed to live in that country, usually with refugee status. The security that the new country provides is known as “asylum”

Civil War

A civil war is a conflict that breaks out within a nation between regions, factions, or groups that are fighting for control of the government, independence, or changes to national policy. These conflicts can result in extensive destruction, turmoil in the economy, and many casualties since they are frequently caused by ingrained political, social, ethnic, or religious differences. Civil wars can cause severe humanitarian catastrophes, population displacement, and protracted instability. The results of these battles often alter the political and social climate of the country, sometimes resulting in long-lasting peace accords but more often leaving persistent resentment and tensions.

Coup

A coup is a use of a 3rd party force in politics to overthrow the existing government, most likely with violence or the use of hard power.

Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)

EAOs are non-state armed groups involved in the internal conflict in Myanmar, officially called ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) by the government of Myanmar. Any organization that identifies as an EAO asserts that it represents an ethnic identity and seeks recognition from other EAOs. Whether a coalition of EAOs or a single EAO represents an ethnic community is often determined by the political climate. The formation of these coalitions and the summits of armed ethnic groups that promote mutual acknowledgment of these alliances are essential. The Democratic Alliance of Burma was founded in 1988 as a result of discussions in the past about whether the Bamar majority should have its own ethnic community, which was symbolized by armed organizations.

Junta

A Junta, (pronounced “hunt-ah”) is a governing body that arose to power by force. While the word technically applies to any such government, it bears the connotations of an authoritarian, military oligarchy. Myanmar is currently ruled by military general Min Aung Hlaing, who controls Myanmar’s national military, the Tatmadaw

Humanitarian Displacement

Humanitarian displacement refers to a forced relocation of people or communities as a result of events like natural disasters, armed conflict, violence, and environmental degradation that endanger their safety and well-being. Significant humanitarian issues are brought on by this displacement, such as the loss of houses and means of subsistence, health concerns, disruptions to education, psychological trauma, and societal disintegration. Immediate emergency assistance, the defense of displaced people's rights, sustained assistance for integration or resettlement, international collaboration, and support for laws that deal with the underlying causes of displacement are all necessary components of effective humanitarian responses to displacement.

Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid refers to help given to people or communities in need, usually during emergencies caused by natural disasters, conflicts, or other forms of crisis. It includes an extensive variety of obligations, such as giving people access to food, shelter, healthcare, and protection. A number of fundamental ideas, such as independence, impartiality, neutrality, and humanity, serve as the foundation for humanitarian aid. These guidelines guarantee that assistance is given solely on the basis of need, free from prejudice or political discrimination.

National Unity Government of Myanmar (NUG)

The National Unity Government of Myanmar (NUG) is a shadow government formed by opponents of the military coup that took place in Myanmar (also known as Burma) on February 1, 2021. It claims to be the legitimate and democratically-elected government of Myanmar, in opposition to the military junta that seized power in the 2021 coup. The NUG's primary goal is to restore democracy and the civilian government in Myanmar, and to challenge the legitimacy of the military junta.

Refugee

A refugee is an asylum seeker who has fled their home country, and was given refugee status by their new country. They are not full citizens, but are given certain rights, such as the right not to be removed from the country, right not to be returned to the country of origin, right to education, right to healthcare, and the right to employment. It is generally accepted that a country should accept as many refugees as possible, but socio economic problems often become a hindrance when accepting refugees.

State Administration Council of Myanmar (SAC)

The SAC is the military junta that seized power in the 2021 coup, overthrowing the democratically-elected civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD) party. It is the entity that has consolidated control over the government, security forces, and state institutions in Myanmar since the coup. The SAC is led by Chairmen General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military.

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the right of a state to govern itself or another state. A sovereign state is defined as having a defined territory and population, an established government that is independent and not dominated by another, and has the ability to interact with other sovereign states. A state that has been denied sovereignty is usually denied their right to elect leaders and interact with other sovereign states.

Historical Background

After its independence from the United Kingdom in 1948, the political history of Myanmar has been racked with turmoil, alternating between violent uprisings and long periods of totalitarian rule by different military juntas. After a coup in 1962, the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), led by General Ne Win seized power and ruled the country as a one-party state. Under Ne Win's socialist agenda, Myanmar became one of the world's most impoverished countries. On August 8th, 1988, hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens protested against the government in an event known as the 8888 uprising.

Date of Occurrence	Event
January 4, 1948	Myanmar (then known as Burma) achieves formal independence from the United Kingdom.
March 2, 1962	The military replaces the Burmese civilian government in a coup d'état led by General Ne Win. After 12 years of martial rule, the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) imposes a totalitarian single-party rule over Myanmar.
1982	The Burmese Citizenship Act was adopted. Burmese citizens are ethnic groups and nationals who, from before 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D., settled in any of the territories included in the State as their permanent home, including the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Burman, Mon, Rakhine, or Shan. Rohingya was not one of these states—thus, the Rohingya people were classified as "associate citizens" and were not granted the rights/relief and authority which was provided to full citizens, such as the ability to seek public office.
1997	The Karen, Karenni, and Shan states' acts of aggression led to more than 500,000 people displaced by major offensives by the Burma Army. In retaliation, Eliya and Dave Eubank establish the Free Burma Rangers.
2001*	About 200 pro-democracy activists are released by the ruling council. This indicates advancements and improvements in negotiations with opposition NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is still detained at home.
August, 2003	Premier Khin Nyunt takes over charge as the next prime minister of the Burmese. As part of the "roadmap" to democracy, he proposed holding a conference in 2004 to establish a new constitution.
2004	The Burmese Army conducts hard power (military force and several offensives) in States of Karenni and Karen against civilians.

September 24, 2007	Assembling approximately 100,000 people, Buddhist monks conduct the largest anti-government protests since 1988.
	The first elections in 20 years are held in Myanmar. The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party declared victory with 80% of the vote.
June 9, 2011	As government forces breached the truce and attacked KIA positions along the Taping river east of Bhamo, Kachin State, fighting breaks out between troops of the Kachin Independence Army and the Myanmar Army.
June 2012	In the western state of Rakhine, violence breaks out which predominantly leads to nearly 150,000 people—mostly members of the Muslim Rohingya minority—being left homeless and over 200 people murdered as a result of religious violence.
February, 2015	To regain control of the Kokang self-administered zone in Shan State, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army launches an operation. After bombing the Chinese side of the Kokang border, the Burmese Army begins a counteroffensive and destroys the MNDAA and its supporters, causing 40,000 to 50,000 civilians to be displaced and igniting a diplomatic problem.
2019	In response to the Turkish incursion and at Isis' final stronghold in Syria, FBR offers help. Burmese FBR ranger Zau Seng was killed in Syria.
February 1, 2021	Burma's coup d'état marked the start of the military's full-scale onslaught.
2022	FBR grows to cope with the increasing demands that have arisen in Burma since the Coup.
2023	In Burma, Iraq, Syria, Tajikistan/Afghanistan, FBR continues to carry out its duty.

Current State of Affairs

Current State of Affairs

The situation in Myanmar has descended into an outright humanitarian catastrophe. The military junta continues to consolidate its regime, and is engaging in a nationwide crackdown of all opposing individuals. Crimes against humanity, including arbitrary arrests, armed oppression of protests, sexual violence, mass killings and torture are committed frequently by the junta. Meanwhile, the junta is taking actions to prolong its grip on power and delaying the return to civil democracy. Rapid and decisive action is widely deemed necessary.

Ethnic oppression

Much of the conflict in Myanmar is based on ethnic conflicts. Minority groups such as the Kachin, Karen, Karenni, and the Shan States are suffering most heavily from the numerous violations of human rights. Notably, Rohingya, a stateless ethnic group, have been severely oppressed. Approximately 600,000 Rohingya members of Rohingya have effectively been confined to the 37,000 square kilometers of the Rakhine state. Travel and escape have become increasingly difficult for the Rohingya as the junta continues to place blockades, restrictions and armed forces in the area, which resulted in an increase in the number of arrests due to “unauthorized travel”, which has led to sentences up to 5 years under detention.

Targeted arrests and the Collapse of the Judicial System

As civilians begin to rise up against the military rule of the junta, mass arrests against protestors and journalists have been made. As of June, 2024, the lowest estimates claim that 24,000 protestors have been captured and detained—at least 4000 of which have been killed in the process. Other sources suggest much higher. Notably, the junta readily arrests foreign journalists, detains and mistreats them. Several have died under custody either due to torture or medical neglect. This is in addition to the thousands arrested due to their ethnicity.

In response to the targeted arrests, a notable number of lawyers have volunteered to defend the arrested in court. Their efforts, however, have been met with systemic obstacles that hinder their work. These lawyers have also faced threats, arbitrary arrests, detention, torture and, sometimes, executions. The junta has also set up what they call ‘special courts’ within prisons, which deal with politically sensitive cases and are closed to the public—and, for that matter, to lawyers as well. These special courts serve as a loophole where rebels can be prosecuted without exposure to the public. This also makes it difficult to estimate the number of victims in Myanmar.

The junta frees prisoners occasionally under the name of an ‘amnesty’. However, these occasions rarely include political prisoners, and even then, the vast majority of those released

have already served most of their terms—many being released merely a few days earlier than scheduled. Apart from this, the junta remains largely uncooperative compared to international demands for the cessation of such activities.

Political and Institutional Stability

In 2023, the Junta announced a new system of “democracy”, where parties were to abide by legislations provided by the junta in order to be considered. The National League for Democracy (NLD), among 400 other parties, were excluded from the election by the junta due to their ‘failure to register’ using the junta’s requirements. The voting body itself is dominated by the junta as well—25% of the cabinet are members of the junta itself, and the majority of the remaining seats are taken by junta-backed politicians. It seems that a democratic election is not possible in Myanmar in the foreseeable future.

Civil war

The Civil war in Myanmar has been ongoing since 5 May 2021 and has currently led to over 50,000 military casualties, the destruction of over 80,000 civilian properties, and the displacement of 2.7 million Burmese citizens. After the formation of a new alliance amongst the Ethnic Armed Organisations and the fall of Laukkai, a significant city in the north of Myanmar, the war has become far more multipolar, with several powerful resistance groups seizing borderlands. This has large implications for the foreign relations of Myanmar, since many nations have ties with the parties involved in the civil war. Further, the development of multilateral warfare with several powerful parties and the lack of a centralizing force may signal the continuation of war in the nation.

Stances of Parties

Algeria

Algeria has not issued a public statement or taken actions in relation to the Burmese civil war, likely because it is still recovering from its own decade-long civil war, fought between 1991 and 2002. This may make Algeria more hesitant in getting involved in another country's civil conflict. Further, the principles of Algeria's foreign policy prioritize Algeria's national interests over the interests of any other party when dealing with international crises. Therefore, Algeria would most likely take a neutral stance towards the Civil war in Myanmar, eschewing direct involvement.

China

China is a major trading partner of Myanmar, maintaining bilateral relations with the nation. Generally, China has had positive relations with both military and elected governments. China's approach to the military junta in Myanmar has altered over time. While the PRC described the 2021 coup as a "major cabinet reshuffle", Chen Hai, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, has also stated that "the current development in Myanmar is absolutely not what China wants to see".

Due to the coup, the junta's control over the China-Myanmar border has severely deteriorated, leading to a rise in cross-border crime. Further, the ongoing civil war has jeopardised Chinese investments in the country and endangered the prospect of further economic transactions with the nation. Therefore, China wishes to see a quick end to this conflict. Analysts suggest that China would attempt to mediate the civil war, supporting whichever side it believes is most capable of ending the conflict. As the civil war became protracted, China tended to support the junta, believing the NUG too weak to pose a threat to the regime.

Ecuador

Ecuador has not made public statements regarding the Burmese civil war. However, two factors may affect Ecuador's stance on the conflict. First of all, Ecuador is a founding member of the United Nations, with one of its foreign policy objectives being to support the objectives of the UN. In accordance with this policy, Ecuador has offered humanitarian aid to many countries. Second of all, Ecuador is currently undergoing a domestic crisis of its own, with gang violence being a serious issue in the country. Therefore, in general, Ecuador would likely champion a peaceful resolution to the conflict, valuing the distribution of humanitarian aid and prioritising internal, rather than external, issues within Myanmar.

France

France has traditionally maintained a bilateral diplomatic relationship with Myanmar. However, the French government has strongly condemned the current military junta. France has led Europe in criticising various policies of the SAC, such as the June 2022 decision to execute those under sentence of death and the imprisonment of former government members such as State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint. France has described such policies as a “systematic dismantling of the rule of law in Burma”.

In a 2023 General Assembly, Diarra Dime-Labille, Legal Adviser of France to the UN, further called upon the military junta to cease violence against its own people and to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid into Myanmar, stating that “crimes committed in Myanmar will not go unpunished”. Further, France’s embassy in Yangon, Myanmar, has issued a statement describing the SAC as an “illegitimate military regime”. France has firmly pledged to stand against the actions of the current Burmese regime in all courts of international law.

Guyana

While Guyana has not made its stances on the Burmese civil war public, the tenets of Guyanese international politics would likely lead the nation to oppose the junta in Myanmar. Among the ten foreign policy objectives set by the Guyana’s Multilateral and Global Affairs Department, the first, second, and third objectives - to enhance Guyana’s image on the international stage, to promote the purposes and principles of the UN charter, and to fulfil Guyana’s obligations under international resolutions - would cause the nation to align with the G7 nations in condemning Burmese military rule.

Japan

Japan has denounced the 2021 coup and the current military junta twice on 21 and 28 February, strongly condemning the actions of the military regime. However, many of Japan’s responses have come more slowly than other G7 nations. One reason for this was the belief that a cautious approach to the situation would be critical in preventing the rift between Myanmar and the rest of democratic society. Further, Japanese sanctions on the Myanmar military would overwrite Japan’s decades of effort to stabilise South-Eastern Asia, and lose Japan the leverage it has over the Myanmar army. Therefore, while Japan has the same general stance as other G7 nations, it would be in Japan’s interest to pursue a more patient, long-term strategy over hasty action.

Malta

While Malta's stance on the Burmese civil war has not been widely publicised, it has taken actions through the Order of Malta, a Catholic philanthropic organisation with close ties to Malta. The Order has been on the front lines of delivering humanitarian aid to civilians in Myanmar, indicating Malta's concern for the humanitarian impacts of the war. Therefore, Malta would likely support a peaceful resolution, alleviating the human suffering caused by the war.

Mozambique

Mozambique has not made statements on the Burmese civil war. However, having come out of a long civil war, it likely values a peaceful resolution to the conflict, which may lead it to encourage dialogue and a peaceful solution to the Myanmar conflict. Further, as a member of the United Nations, Mozambique likely has reservations against the human rights violations committed by the junta.

Republic of Korea

In response to the 2021 coup, the South Korean national assembly passed a resolution condemning the military junta. The resolution called not only for immediate ceasefire, but for the safe return of over 3500 Korean citizens residing in Myanmar. Further, the ROK has stopped military support of Myanmar. On the 26th of August, 2021, the ROK issued a statement saying "the South Korean government, going forward, so that the Myanmar situation can be resolved in a direction to meet the aspirations of its people". The ROK would likely support a resolution that quickly and peacefully resolves the conflict, but also ensures the interest of all Korean parties involved in the conflict.

Russia

Russia expresses support for the current regime in Myanmar. The bilateral relations between Myanmar and Russia have increased in substance as the military junta took power. After Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the two nations have further bonded together in the face of Western sanctions and international disapprobation. Russia is the junta's preferred major power partner, and Myanmar has become the second most economically significant Asian country for Russia after Vietnam. Russia was the only major power to acknowledge the Tatmadaw's 2021 power grab. Myanmar has also supported Russia in its conflict with Ukraine, providing the nation with funds and weapons. In August 2022, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described Myanmar as a "friendly and long standing partner".

The Russian Government has taken advantage of the coup to promote its arm sales and other economic interests in Myanmar. Further, Russia's military involvement in the conflict in support of the military regime has prolonged the civil war. Russia wishes to see a resolution that benefits the current junta, as it is in Russia's interests to have the junta hold on to power.

Sierra Leone

There have been no publicised statements by Sierra Leone regarding the Burmese civil war. However, having experienced an eleven-year-long civil war, it likely has its emphasis on peace and rebuilding. On April 15, 2024, Sierra Leone invited officials from the Burmese junta to participate in a conference regarding autonomous weapons. This conference highlights Sierra Leone's commitment to engaging with the issue at hand and provides a viable resolution to dealing with the Burmese conflict.

Slovenia

Slovenia is opposed to the military junta and strongly disapproves of the military's indiscriminate use of violence against the civilian population. On the 4th of April, 2024, Slovenia issued a statement in the UNSC renewing its condemnation to the military coup and all forms of violence by the junta. Slovenia is especially concerned about delivering humanitarian aid to the civilians in Myanmar, and strongly condemn all deliberate obstructions to humanitarian assistance. Slovenia also spoke out against forced military conscription and the continued recruitment of children for the junta's armies. Slovenia would most likely support a resolution which prioritises the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians and ending the conflict rapidly.

Switzerland

Switzerland wishes to see democratic stability and citizen rule return to Myanmar, and has undertaken various programs to provide humanitarian aid to Burmese citizens, providing proactive care. For example, the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has stepped up its partnership with ethnic health organisations which provide local health care. In resolving conflicts in Myanmar, Switzerland values the reduction of violence, the protection of civilians, and the insurance of stability. Therefore, Switzerland would likely be favourable towards a resolution that prioritises humanitarian aids and brings a swift conclusion to the conflict.

United Kingdom (UK)

The bilateral relationship between Myanmar and the UK has greatly deteriorated after the 2021 coup. The UK strongly condemns the military junta and calls for an immediate restoration of civilian rule in Myanmar. The UK has collaborated with the United States and France in placing sanctions on the junta. The UK has also taken independent action against the junta, imposing a sanction on Myanmar justice officials in 2022 and against Myanmar in 2024. It is to the UK's interests to see a swift end to the conflict that brings down the junta and restores civilian rule to Myanmar.

United States (US)

The United States, under the Joe Biden administration, has strongly condemned the military coup and junta in Myanmar. On February 10, 2021, the US announced economic sanctions on Myanmar military leaders. On July 23, 2022, when the junta executed four political prisoners, the United States issued a joint statement with G7 nations including France, which condemned the disregard of human rights in Myanmar.

The United States' interest in Myanmar extends beyond altruistic desires to extend humanitarian aid. After the coup destabilised the governance in the nation, hundreds of thousands of Myanmar citizens have been forced to work in online scam centres which run internationally. In 2023, the United States saw over 3.5 billion dollars in reported losses and around 40,000 individual victims. The United States wishes to see a quick end to the conflict with minimal humanitarian damage. It is in the US's interest to pursue a resolution that may stabilize Myanmar and ensure democratic rule in the country after the end of the conflict.

Possible Solutions

While there are many possible solutions to the crisis, when deciding on a course to pursue, the Security Council should consider both the delicate civil elements within Myanmar and the international interests involved with the conflict. No resolution can be successful unless it is supported by more than just one party. Therefore, delegates should seek to analyze all angles of this conflict before coming to a final comprehensive decision.

Humanitarian Intervention

The United Nations is equipped with an international military body known as the Blue Helmets, consisting of over 70,000 military personnel. Its use is restricted to large humanitarian crises, and even then is only to act as peacekeepers. The Blue Helmets could be used not only to monitor conflict zones but also to provide safety and security for the vulnerable members in the conflict and prevent the violation of rights. However, it is highly likely that such action would be met with strong resistance from the states in question, as it partially compromises the sovereignty of the nation. It is therefore advised to use Blue Helmets only as a last resort, when no sign of willingness to negotiate or communicate is being made by the perpetrating state.

It is also to be noted that the Blue Helmets is a composite force, consisting of members of national armies. Certain countries that have made large contributions to the Blue Helmets may have differing views on the standards of their deployment.

Providing military aid to pro-democracy parties

Some experts believe that the international community should focus on helping the pro-democracy resistance win the civil war, as there may not be a true political solution to the crisis in Myanmar. This would ensure the organic restoration of civil rule within the nation. The Security Council may pass a resolution for the deployment of UN Peacekeeping forces to Myanmar, working in conjunction with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to provide direct military aid.

This operation may be considered a breach of national sovereignty, while some may believe it is too crude a solution for a delicate problem. Others may object to using international military personnel to resolve a civil conflict. Nevertheless, this could be a valid option for those delegates who believe a quick resolution to the conflict to be more important than preserving the junta's sovereignty.

International Sanctions

The Security Council may choose to impose embargoes and financial sanctions on the junta, thus reducing its ability to continue the conflict. In the year ending March 2024, the junta imported nearly \$130 million in weapons and military supplies from sources in Thailand. Singapore has been identified as another significant source of weapons and funds into Myanmar. Thus, imposing trade sanctions and restricting the junta's trade by isolating Myanmar may be a valid option.

However, the effectiveness of such sanctions may be in question. In 2023, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews warned that the junta circumvents sanctions by exploiting gaps in embargoes and exploiting the lack of cohesive and coordinated actions by UN Member States. In order for financial sanctions to be effective, delegates will need to come up with a system that motivates Member States to crack down on trade with Myanmar and ensures effective action by all involved nations.

Questions to Consider

1. Who are the stakeholders in this agenda? How are they to be weighted?
2. What is the underlying cause of the conflict, and what measures could be taken to resolve them?
3. To what extent does a nation have sovereignty over their citizens? When does a nation lose their sovereignty by failing to fulfill its duties of providing protection to their citizens as a governmental power?
4. What potential values are there in this situation? What could be gained by the parties within Myanmar, as well as external third parties?
5. Of these values, which ones does your state prioritise? Does your state have internal motives?
6. What values could your state offer to the stakeholders in this situation?
7. Are there risks that your state would undertake by becoming involved in this situation? How great are they, and how much is your state willing to risk?

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