



## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

### Item No. 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar

#### Oral Statement

19 March 2025

The Law Association of Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), along with the Law Council of Australia, express grave concern at the Myanmar military's continued and systematic curtailment of civil liberties along with grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Over the last four years, the junta has acted with impunity, subjecting the people of Myanmar – especially ethnic and religious minorities such as the Rohingya – to human rights abuses through indiscriminate or intentional artillery and aerial strikes, forced conscription of persons including children<sup>1</sup>, widespread torture and sexual violence<sup>2</sup>, arbitrary arrests and detentions, denial of fair trials and denial of access to justice, and extrajudicial killings.

We denounce the junta's intentions to hold an 'election' later this year.<sup>3</sup> Holding a legitimate, free, and fair election in Myanmar is currently impossible, with opposition parties banned; politicians detained; rights of speech and assembly, restricted; and cybersecurity laws that criminalize criticism of the junta by journalists and citizens.<sup>4</sup>

We urge this Council and Member States to:

- i. Pressure the junta to cease its human rights abuses and hold it accountable for the atrocities committed; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icj.org/myanmar-four-years-after-the-military-coup-widespread-atrocities-persist-without-accountability/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/myanmar>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/01/un-expert-urges-support-people-myanmar-they-heroically-oppose-military>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.voanews.com/a/myanmar-s-new-cybercrime-law-will-suppress-information-say-analysts/7923821.html>; <https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-version-Lincoln.pdf>

- ii. Push for the reinstatement of a democratic system under civilian leadership and the strengthening of the rule of law in Myanmar, and insist that any election fully adhere to international standards.