

Oral statement to be presented during Interactive Dialogue on report of Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar at 48 HRC

By

Centre for Civil and Political Rights

Madame President, Madame High Commissioner, distinguished members of the Human Rights Council, and members of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM),

We have read the report of the Mechanism (A/HRC/48/18) with great appreciation for the work conducted by the Mechanism, and at the same time, with grave and increasing concern over the situation in Myanmar.

The Centre commends the work carried out by the Mechanism despite multiple challenges complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the military coup on 1 February 2021 and quickly deteriorating situation on the ground since then. Preliminary findings of the Mechanism as stated in its report to the Council, reaffirmed mounting evidences reported by various sources of crimes against humanity committed by the junta and security forces in Myanmar since the coup, in particular systematic and widespread acts of murders, sexual assaults, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and persecution.

Madame President, Madame High Commissioner,

How many wake-up calls does international community need to take decisive action, to save the millions of people in Myanmar? The cycle of violence on the ground can quickly transform into armed conflicts. Effective and coordinated intervention from the international community is needed now.

As also stated by the Mechanism, *“recent events are a stark reminder of the dangers of impunity and the need to ensure accountability for all those who have committed serious international crimes, in order to break the cycle of violence and protect all the peoples of Myanmar”*.

The Mechanism can play a crucial role in this process. However, its work must be supported and complemented by others. Sufficient resources and flexibility must be given to the IIMM to effectively fulfil its mandate, which the Council needs to expand or adjust in a timely manner as the situation on the ground evolves. And more decisively, its work must be acted upon by this Council and all other relevant bodies.

Violence and atrocity by the Tatmadaw must be stopped immediately and safe environment must be created on the ground, for this Mechanism, for Human Rights Defenders, and other key actors to thoroughly document and monitor the situation and to deliver humanitarian assistance. Accountability is a must to realise sustainable peace.

The time is running out, we must act now.

Thank you, Madame President.