



**Special Advisory Council for
MYANMAR**

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The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

31 March 2025

Dear Foreign Secretary,

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) calls on the United Kingdom as penholder to urgently convene a Security Council meeting on Myanmar and to immediately resume efforts to adopt a new resolution in follow-up to UNSCR 2669 (2022).

The twin earthquakes that struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March 2025 have been catastrophic. Thousands of people in Myanmar are feared dead, thousands more remain trapped, hospitals are overrun and out of supplies, and repeated aftershocks threaten further destruction of homes and critical infrastructure. The earthquakes also hit a time of crippling aid cuts, when a third of Myanmar's population – 20 million people – had already been driven into poverty by the military junta's four-year war of attrition.

The National Unity Government's People's Defence Forces have implemented a two-week pause in offensive military operations in earthquake-affected areas to ensure an all-hands emergency response. The National Unity Government has offered to extend its services to areas controlled by the junta if security guarantees are provided.

Yet the military junta continues to conduct attacks. According to reports, it has launched air strikes in earthquake-affected areas including Magway and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Karen, Karenni and Shan States. Emerging reports also claim that the junta is blocking relief efforts in hardest-hit Sagaing, including in areas of the region under National Unity Government control. If confirmed, this would follow an established pattern by the junta of obstructing humanitarian access to disaster-hit areas, as it did after Cyclone Mocha in 2023 and Typhoon Yagi in 2024.

The United Kingdom has worked steadily to build support for a new Security Council resolution on Myanmar. These efforts must be urgently resumed, with the current draft text updated to address the earthquakes, the broader humanitarian crisis, and the military junta's continued failure to comply with UNSCR 2669. New language should:

- call for a full and immediate cessation of offensive military operations across Myanmar, while acknowledging the pause already implemented by the National Unity Government
- impose embargoes on the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to the Myanmar military

- urge ASEAN, UN entities and the international community to urgently deploy humanitarian aid, medical assistance, heavy equipment and rescue teams by land, air and sea, including through cross-border channels and ethnic and civil society organisations capable of reaching communities most in need
- demand that local and international rescue teams be given full and immediate access to all earthquake-affected areas
- call for scaled-up financial support to Myanmar to bolster rescue, recovery and reconstruction efforts, support newly displaced communities, and to address the broader humanitarian crisis.

The updated text should also formally place Myanmar on the Security Council's agenda by requesting that both the UN Secretary-General and the UN Special Envoy on Myanmar report on the implementation of the resolution every 60 days.

SAC-M is grateful for your consideration, Minister. We have copied Dame Barbara Woodward in this correspondence, and also intend to make this letter public after your receipt.

Sincerely,



Yanghee Lee



Marzuki Darusman



Chris Sidoti

Copy to

Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations in New York