



**Special Advisory Council for
MYANMAR**

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Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Government of Australia

11 November 2025

Dear Minister,

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) writes concerning the human rights, humanitarian and political crises in Myanmar, to encourage you to take the lead on a new international joint statement.

The Myanmar military junta plans to hold sham elections, scheduled to commence on 28 December 2025. This exercise would be illegitimate and will trigger widespread bloodshed.

In the lead up to its planned poll, the military junta is intensifying its aerial attacks against civilians and perceived opponents and has introduced a “Law to Protect the Multiparty Democracy General Elections from Disruption, Obstruction, and Destruction”, which sanctions legitimate acts of democratic and political expression with sentences ranging from three years imprisonment to capital punishment. The junta also continues to arbitrarily detain more than 22,600 political prisoners, including President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The junta has barred major political parties that won a super-majority of seats in 2020 from participating in its poll, as well as representatives from ethnic and minority communities. Added to this, the junta control less than 40% of the territory of Myanmar and is unable to conduct inclusive elections, disenfranchising large segments of the population. In areas where voting can take place, extreme levels of violence, displacement and denial of fundamental freedoms mean that the right to vote cannot be meaningfully exercised. Voting would be coerced rather than voluntary, for many. Numerous military junta candidates are also directly implicated in atrocity crimes. Any election it purports to conduct cannot be free and fair.

ASEAN has withheld its support from the junta’s planned elections. In their latest ‘Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus’, adopted on 26 October 2025, ASEAN Leaders demanded that ‘the cessation of violence and inclusive political dialogue must precede elections’ in Myanmar. They also emphasised ‘the importance of free, fair, peaceful, transparent, inclusive, and credible general elections’.

Similarly, UN Security Council Resolution 2669 (2022) on Myanmar confirms that democratic processes in Myanmar, including elections, must accord with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar. The peoples of Myanmar overwhelmingly reject the junta.

An international joint statement led by Australia should at a minimum express support for legitimate pro-democracy actors, reject the junta's planned elections and refuse to recognise the legitimacy and the outcome of any such elections.

At the same time, Australia should assume a stronger leadership role on Myanmar by working with ASEAN and likeminded States to:

- (a) call for a full and immediate cessation of military offensives across Myanmar and demand the immediate release of all political prisoners
- (b) coordinate with ASEAN, UN entities and Myanmar's neighbours to urgently deliver humanitarian assistance, including through cross-border channels and through ethnic and civil society organisations capable of reaching communities most in need
- (c) block the flow of weapons, munitions, dual use items and jet fuel to the junta
- (d) strengthen coordinated sanctions against junta members, associates and businesses
- (e) increase direct financial and technical assistance to pro-democracy actors and local and community organisations to support coordination, service delivery and institution-building
- (f) encourage ASEAN to build on recent Stakeholder Engagement Meetings by creating a formal platform to support key stakeholders in their negotiation of a new federal democratic constitution. Stakeholders should include the National Unity Government, the National Unity Consultative Council, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Ethnic Resistance Organisations, Consultative Councils, Federal Units, minority communities including those who have been forced to leave Myanmar, and civil society
- (g) support accountability, including through the application of universal jurisdiction and by cooperating with international courts and accountability mechanisms on Myanmar
- (h) pressure the UN Security Council to resume efforts to adopt a strengthened resolution on Myanmar in follow-up to UNSCR 2669.

SAC-M is grateful for your consideration, Minister, and stands ready to support your efforts. We intend to make this letter public after your receipt.

Sincerely,



Yanghee Lee



Marzuki Darusman



Chris Sidoti