

UN Human Rights Council 51: UK Statement for the Interactive dialogue on the report of the OHCHR on Myanmar

Thank you, Mr President.

Thank you Acting High Commissioner for your report.

The United Kingdom supported the council's Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar and its' important work to shine a light on the military's economic interests. We call on all States to engage with its recommendations, which remain all the more important amid today's calamitous situation in the country.

We are committed to working with partners to target the regime's access to finance and arms, which facilitate the most egregious human rights violations. These violations must stop.

The UK has a comprehensive arms embargo on Myanmar and we are clear that no Member State should sell arms to Myanmar; doing so exasperates conflict and instability and directly contributes to violations in the country.

Since the coup, we have announced targeted sanctions on the military leadership, and its access to revenue, arms and military equipment.

While responsible businesses have a role to play in Myanmar in job creation, poverty alleviation and standard setting, we must ensure that their work does not inadvertently support the military regime. For this reason, the UK has also strengthened its advice to UK business, encouraging enhanced due diligence to avoid inadvertent support for the military.

Madam Acting High Commissioner,

What more can the international community do to pressure those who sell arms to the military?

Thank you.