



Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)

Agenda Items:

- I. The Protection of Human Rights in Myanmar
- II. Preventing Cultural Regression in Developing Nations

Under-Secretary-General: Baran Vural
Academic Assistant: Ata Karakaya

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

As the Secretary-General of Cakabey Schools Model United Nations (CAKAMUN), it is with great honor that I welcome you to the fourth annual session of our conference. It's truly an honor to take on this role and be part of CAKAMUN alongside a hardworking team. Since its establishment, CAKAMUN has been committed to creating a platform where students can engage with pressing global issues, refine their negotiation skills, and develop a deeper understanding of international relations. Year after year, we strive to improve and expand our conference, making it a more enriching experience for all participants. Our goal has always been to cultivate an environment where delegates can challenge themselves, embrace new perspectives, and contribute meaningfully to the discussions shaping our world.

This year, our theme, "Resilient Societies in a Fragile World: Peace, Justice, and Sustainability," reflects the complex challenges our world faces today. From geopolitical conflicts to climate crises, social injustices to economic instability, we live in a time where resilience is not just a virtue but a necessity. As future leaders, diplomats, and changemakers, we are responsible for exploring solutions that promote peace, uphold justice, and ensure sustainability for generations to come.

The committees of CAKAMUN'25 have been carefully designed to align with this theme, addressing issues that demand urgent global attention. Each agenda item presents an opportunity for meaningful discourse, encouraging delegates to think critically, collaborate effectively, and propose innovative solutions inspired by current and past political events. Beyond the debates, CAKAMUN25 is also a chance to build lifelong friendships, gain confidence in public speaking, and most importantly, to take a step towards becoming a global citizen.

Organizing a conference of such a scale is no small task, and I extend my deepest gratitude to our Executive and Organizational Teams, who have worked tirelessly to bring this year's CAKAMUN to life. Their dedication and passion ensure that CAKAMUN continues to grow with each year, providing participants with an unforgettable experience.

On behalf of the entire CAKAMUN'25 team, I invite you to embark on this journey of diplomacy and debate. I am confident that this conference will leave you with not only valuable insights but also a renewed sense of ongoing and historical issues. May your time here be filled with engaging discussions, productive collaborations, and moments of inspiration.

Looking forward to seeing you all on May 2nd!

Yours sincerely,

Secretary-General of CAKAMUN'25,

LETTER FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear delegates,

It is with great honor that I welcome you all as the UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL of SOCHUM (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee). I think it would be a great conference experience to all of us but before the conference begins, you have some missions to do. First of all you have to read the guide but don't forget your own research is always more important than the guide. Second of all you have to be ready for having so much fun. SOCHUM may seem a difficult Committee but don't forget if you did your own research, you will do an excellent job in the Committee.

With a great love, Baran Vural

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LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

Dear Delegates,

It is my privilege to welcome you all to this prestigious conference, the fourth official session of Cakabey High School Model United Nations Conference. I am Ata Karakaya, the academic assistant responsible for the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM). I am presently a freshman at Atakent Anatolian High School. I have been doing MUNs over a year now and I am highly honored to serve as your academic assistant in this magnificent conference.

Baran and I prepared you an excellent, well-written study guide. As your academic assistant, I would like to remind you that it is significant for you to read this study guide and do your research. Since SOCHUM is at the beginner level, I expect that most of you are first-timers. I would like you to know that the objective of an under-secretary-general and academic assistant is not only to write a study guide, but teach you MUN and guide you well in order to ensure you have an incredible experience.

Please do not hesitate to ask anything about the committee, Rules of Procedure, etc. I am just a phone away and I can't wait to meet you all.

Sincerely,

Ata Karakaya

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RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. Roll Call and Quorum

Every official session has to start with a roll call. In the roll call, the chairboard states all of the delegates' countries in alphabetical order. Right after the chairboard's statements, the delegates have two options; present, present and voting. If the delegate neither says present nor present and voting, then that means they are absent. If they have voted for "present", then that means that they are participating in the meeting. If they have voted for "present and voting" then that means that they are participating in the meeting and they will not be able to vote for "abstain" in the substantive votings. If they are not absent, they may raise a point or a motion and the chairboard may add them to the speakers list. With roll calls, the chairboard will be able to see if they have reached the quorum or not. If they have reached the quorum they may continue to the committee, otherwise they might not continue to the committee and they have to wait until they reach the quorum.

2. Opening of the Debate

Motion for Setting the Agenda Item: This motion is used to set the agenda item to a topic related to the committee. If there is only one agenda item in the committee, then this motion is not mandatory. This motion requires 2 pro speakers and 2 against speakers before it has opened for votes.

Motion for the Opening of the Debate: This motion allows delegates to debate and discuss under the agenda item. This motion may be given by the phrase "motion to open the debate".

The Start of the Opening Speeches: After the setting of the agenda item and the opening of the debate. The chairboard recognizes present delegates' countries and gives them a right to approach the floor. The time for these speeches is directly limited with the General Speakers List's speaking time, which is 1 minute and 30 seconds by default. This action does not require a motion.

3. General Speakers List (GSL)

The General Speakers List (GSL) automatically opens right after the opening speeches and it automatically closes right after the debate closes. The GSL can never be tabled ever until the closing of the debate, it has to remain open. It is fully up to the chairboard if they are going to entertain speakers or not. If they are not going to entertain any(more) speakers, then they may open the floor. The General Speakers List is similar to the opening speeches but they are not the same. The GSL has to include at least 3 speakers, if it does not then the committee cannot proceed. The GSL speaking time can be changed by a motion. During this time a delegate may give a speech on the floor related to the committee's agenda item but not under a

specific topic like moderated caucuses. Once their speech has finished, they have 3 different options. They may yield their time to the chairboard and wait for the chairboard's permission to be seated. They may yield their remaining time to another delegate if the other delegate accepts it. They may open themselves to points of informations. The remaining GSL speaking time can only be yielded once.

4. Points

Points are a request or a statement made by a delegate and it is used to address procedural issues, clarify information and state personal concerns during the committee. There are 4 points and these are in order of priority:

Point of Personal Privilege: In MUNs every participant has privileges for their personal concerns regardless of their status. This point lets delegates state their personal needs. Moreover, this is the only thing that may interrupt another participant's speech (only in case that a participant cannot understand or hear another participant's speech).

Point of Order: This point is used when a delegate detects their chairboard has made a mistake in the procedure. This point cannot be overruled by the chairboard, the chairboard has to grant this point even though they did not make a procedural mistake. This point cannot be given towards a delegate by a delegate.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: This motion is used for clarification of procedural information when a delegate has any concerns or questions about the procedure. A delegate may ask a question about procedure via this point.

Point of Information: This motion is used to ask questions that are not about procedure. This point can be used to ask questions to another delegate if they had opened themselves for points of informations with their remaining time or ask a question towards a crisis team member about updates. This motion cannot be used to ask questions directly towards the chairboard.

5. Definition of Motion

Motions are used to take an action inside of the committee. Everything that necessitates an action requires a motion if it is not a point. That is why counting the motions is not possible and it would not be appropriate.

6. Caucuses

Motion for Moderated Caucuses: A motion for a moderated caucus requires three things; a topic, a total time and an individual time. The topic has to be related to the agenda item of the committee. Delegates may specify the agenda item and shape the committee. The moderated caucus' total time can be 20 minutes maximum and 5 minutes minimum. The individual time

for a moderated caucus cannot pass the General Speakers List's speaking time (which is 1 minute and 30 seconds by default) also it has to divide the total time. The moderated caucus' total time and the individual time cannot be the same as the other moderated caucuses' total time and the individual time in the poll. The motion which has the most total time has the most priority in the voting process of the motions for moderated caucuses. If there are two or more motions to have a moderated caucus, the motion which includes lowest individual time / can entertain more speakers has the priority in the voting. If one of a motion in the pool passes, the sponsor of this motion rises with the chairboard's recognition and they may choose whether they are going to be the first speaker or not. In moderated caucuses, the chairboard moderates the debate, chooses delegates who are wishing to be added on the speaking list and recognizes delegates to speak not alphabetically but in an order. Which delegate's country was mentioned first, has the priority.

Motion for Unmoderated Caucuses: A motion for an unmoderated caucus only requires one thing, a total time. In unmoderated caucuses the chairboard does not moderate and shape the debate, instead the delegates may walk inside of the committee, debate with other delegates, brainstorm or write the final document(s).

Motion for the Termination of the Current Caucus: This motion is used to terminate a caucus when there is nothing more to talk about the topic, there is a more important topic, etc. When there is a motion to terminate the current caucus, during this motion's voting procedure, one objection is enough to make this motion fail.

Motion for the Extension of the Previous Caucus: This motion is used to extend the previous caucus when there are more topics to debate, do, etc. The total time of this motion cannot be more than the total time of the previous motion.

7. Suspension of the Meeting

Motion for the Suspension of the Meeting: This motion is used to temporarily stop the committee procuring. This motion might be given when delegates are wishing to take a break, make a fun session etc.

8. Further Motions

Motion for the Division of the Question: The purpose of this motion is to vote on the final document clause by clause. This motion might be given when there are more than 2 blocks so-called against but they have a similar opinion etc. This motion requires two third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority. Before this motion has opened for voting, at least 2 pro and 2 against speeches have to be taken. The time of the speeches are directly the current GSL speaking time.

Motion for the Division of the House: This motion aims to disallow the vote "abstain" in order to change the voting results directly when there are abstentions. This motion might be

given when delegates cannot pass a final document because of abstentions etc. This motion requires two third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority similar to motion for the division of the questions.

Motion for Reordering: This motion is used when there are more than 2 final documents and the delegates are wishing to change the order of the draft final document's order (this motion is valid for both introducing and voting order of final documents. This motion also requires two third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority.

9. Message Papers and Right of Reply

Moreover, delegates are allowed to communicate and take some actions via message papers (i.e when they want the chairboard's permission to use the restroom, to use their right of reply, etc) Right of reply might be used when a delegate made an offensive speech about another delegate's country (i.e when a delegate uses a specific country name, makes a hate speech, etc.) A message paper for a right of reply must include why they got offended and which delegate caused them to get offended. The time for a right of reply speech is 90 seconds by default but it may be changed with raising a motion in order to change it.

10. Final Documents

In committees a final document has to be written by delegates in order to pass the committee instead of failing the committee. The final document depends on the committee and some of those are listed below without any order:

Resolution Papers

Resolution papers are mostly used in General Assembly committees but they might be used in committees which are following the semi-crisis procedure even though it is not that common (i.e United Nations Security Council). Resolution Papers have to include 5 things and in priority order those are:

- The Formal and Official Name of the Committee
- The Agenda Item Related to the Committee
- Signatures of the Member States
- Preambulatory Clauses
- Operative Clauses

The Formal and Official Name of the Committee: Most of the committees under the United Nations have 2 names, the shortened version -the abbreviated version- and the official name

-expanded version-. In resolution papers, all of the abbreviated names have to be written with their full forms no matter what and it is optional to write the abbreviation inside parentheses.

The Agenda Item Related to the Committee: Every Committee has to have an agenda item(s). There has to be at least one resolution paper for each of the agenda items in case there are more than one agenda item and only 1 resolution paper can pass for one agenda item.

Signatures of the Member States: In every resolution paper there has to be a part which includes signatures of the member states. This part is important because this part has to include every member state who accepts the resolution paper. A member state can sign more than one resolution paper, and there is no limit for signatures. In this part, every country name has to be written by their formal name (i.e Nippon-Koku, The United Mexican States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Preambulatory Clauses: Resolution papers include preambulatory clauses to state that they are noticed and aware of a problem related to their agenda item. There are some special phrases used in the beginning of each preambulatory clause.

Operative Clauses: Operative clauses are used to state a potential solution for an issue related to the agenda item of the committee. Each operative clause has a specific phrase at the beginning. Operative phrases have a specific format. Since all of the resolution paper is one sentence, the delegates cannot use period (.) during the writing process of the resolution paper and they have to use conjunctions to conjunct the clauses, sub clauses and sub sub clauses. Operative clauses shown with numbers (i.e 1, 2, 3), sub clauses shown with lower-cases letters (i.e a, b, c) and sub sub clauses shown with lower-cased roman numbers (i.e i, ii, iii).

Declaration Papers

Declaration papers are mostly used in Specialized General Assembly committees or Semi-Crisis committees but there it is not strict or it is not compulsory to use it in these committees. Declaration paper formed by clauses which usually include both the issue, and the action that delegates discussed to take in order to solve the problem.

Human Development Reports

Human Development Reports (HDRs) only can be used in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) but it is not compulsory. They consist of 2 main things; foreword, headers. Headers have to be related to a problem and each header has to include sub headers (i.e current situation, what has done in the past, what is the problem, what more can be done, but are not limited to). Every page except for the cover has to include a column which should be located right on the middle to split the page up to 2.

11. Voting Procedures

There are 2 different voting types and they are; official votings, substantive votings. Procedural votings also split up into 2; verbal votings, procedural votings. In verbal votings, the chairboard asks for seconds and objections. Delegates are expected to say second or objection, but they might abstain. If there are both seconds and objections in the house, then the chairboard has to go for a procedural voting. In procedural votings, every delegate has to vote by raising their placards and the chairboard has to count both in favor and against votes. If total vote count is less than the present delegates, then the committee cannot continue and the procedural voting has to be taken again and again. In substantive votings, delegates have 6 choices; yes, yes with rights, no, no with rights, abstain, pass. If they vote for “yes” then that means they are in favor. If they vote for “yes with rights” then they vote counts as yes and they will have the floor for 1 minute and 30 seconds in order to give a speech. (the time for the speeches depends on the GSL speaking time). If they vote for “no” then they are against this final document. If they vote for “no with rights” then their vote will count as no and they will have the floor in order to give a speech. yes and no with right speeches has to be given after the voting procedure. If they vote for “abstain” then that means that they are being natural. If they vote for “pass” then their name will be passed to the second round and if they say “pass” they can only vote for “yes” or “no” in the second round. In substantive votings, the chairboard states delegates’ countries’ in alphabetical order and they will have the right to vote when they are recognized.

12. Majorities

Every motion requires a different majority during the voting procedure of the motion. Simple majority ($\frac{1}{2} + 1$), two thirds majority ($\frac{2}{3}$), unanimous consent (1/1). Most of the motions require a simple majority (i.e caucuses, adjournment, editing the GSL speaking time). Most of the motions affecting the course of the committee require a two thirds majority (i.e closure of the debate, division of the question). The motions require all delegates to be in favor, require a unanimous consent (i.e termination).

13. Amendments

Amendments are used when delegates are wishing to add a clause, strike a clause or amend a clause. Amendments are seen 2 two main headers; friendly amendments and unfriendly amendments. Friendly amendments are amendments that all delegates are in favor of, they are usually minor changes like fixing typos, adding sub sub clauses etc. Unfriendly amendments are amendments that usually include major changes like removing a clause, adding a new clause etc. Amendments are usually given with a message paper but it is up to the chairboard’s preference. Amendments can be given verbally or they can be given via e-mail even though it is not common. Unfriendly amendments require a substantive voting procedure.

14. Adjournment Process of the Committee

In order to adjourn the committee without making any procedural mistakes, there are some steps that are mandatory to be taken before the adjournment of the committee.

Closing of the Debate:

This action requires a motion which can be given with a phrase “motion to close the debate”. This motion requires $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

Introducing of a Draft Final Document:

Every final document written by delegates is named “draft final document” until it passes. This action requires a motion and a delegate may read the draft final document out loud to introduce it or the committee may go for a silent reading.

Starting of the Voting Procedure:

In order to pass them, the delegates might want to vote on a final document. This action requires a motion and final documents have to be voted with substantive voting.

Adjournment of the Meeting:

Once there are no agenda items to discuss or no final documents to write, the committee can be adjourned. This action requires a motion.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the 6 principal organs of the United Nations and it is the main policy-maker organ of the United Nations. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United



Nations has an equal vote. The Assembly meets in regular sessions from September to December each year, and thereafter as required. It discusses specific issues through dedicated agenda items or sub-items, which lead to the adoption of resolutions. There are 6 committees under UNGA and those are; (GA1) Disarmament and International Security, (GA2) Economic and Financial, (GA3) Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural, (GA4) Special Political and Decolonization, (GA5) Administrative and Budgetary, and (GA6) Legal.

Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)

Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM), also known as the Third Committee (GA6), concentrates on problems dealing with fundamental human rights in the international community. SOCHUM was founded right after the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in 1945. SOCHUM patronizes and consolidates basic freedoms and ideals aspiring to enhance welfare by the whole international community (i.e right to life, the expression of cultures, the freedom of political participation, the protection of children's rights, the promotion of social development and so on). The Third Committee obtains its legitimacy from the original United Nations Charter and operates by considering the idea of designing peaceful settlements for problems within the large spectrum of social, cultural, and humanitarian complications in the international community.

KEY TERMS

Coup d'état: a sudden illegal, often violent, taking of government power, especially by part of an army.

Power grab: an attempt to obtain control over something in an opportunistic or unscrupulous way.

Interim civilian government: a temporary government formed to manage a period of transition, often following state collapse, revolution, civil war, or some combination thereof.

Junta: a military or political group that rules a country after taking power by force.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA ITEM I

Current status

Ever since the 2021 Myanmar Coup D'état, human rights infringement percentages have hit the top. Right after the coup, military government power grabbed the interim civilian government and inherently this action caused a devastating civil war. The United Nations reprimand the military government due to the actions they take such as; striking civilians, forced recruitment, arbitrary arrests and so on.

Especially Rakhine atrociously destroyed by the offensive rampages, therefore; over 2 million civilians are facing a terrible starving risk due to conflicts and trade restrictions. The market prices, including the necessary humanitarian wares, have peaked and rice production percentages have decreased. Because of mandatory displacements, civilians are living with limited support and healthcare.



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) put out a warrant to arrest Min Aung Hlaing (the head of the Myanmar armed forces) in November 2024 as a result of human rights' infringement caused by him. Public interpreting that this warrant is an impeachment for the victimization of hundreds of thousands civilians in the armed operation in 2017.

Additionally, the military government promised to hold an election between December 2025 and January 2026. However, most of the journalists believe that a potential election cannot be consistent because most of the opposition parties have been banned and approximately 22.000 politicians got arrested. An election might flare up the conflict.

Journalists are still under pressure because the military government is trying to restrict freedom of expression. Arrested journalists are facing with physical and psychological harassment regularly just because they wanted to use their right to freedom of speech.

Main Problems

I. Coup D'état and Military Government

Since the subversion of the civilian government, human rights in Myanmar started to get



violated. The military government has legislated pressurized laws to balance their authority besides, the civilians sustaining harsh interferences by the military government. Right after the coup, the government banned the protests -including peaceful ones- and ignored the infringement of human rights.

II. Civil War

Increased tension due to the coup, a civil war erupted. Before the civil war, civilians were protesting without violence but the armed forces brought violence and ignited the civil war. The armed forces did not hesitate to use weapons and offensive wares against defenseless civilians. This offense caused civilians to counterattacks.

Vigilantes, guerillas and unorganized armed groups were spread all over the region and there was not a consistent, violence avoiding government or a lawsuit that could secure civilians' safety, stop unorganized armed groups and prevent the vandalism to become widespread. There are several ethnic groups inside the region (i.e Karen, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine). The civilian war was an alibi for them to ignore human rights and war crimes in order to gain independence because they would not be officially documented.

III. Ethnic Persecution

Most of the authorized people who formed the military government are Budists, as most of the public is. The military government is implementing racist policies for the minorities.

In 2017 Rohingya Genocide, more than 700.000 Rohingya people are forced to migrate to Bangladesh because they were getting sexually harassed and tortured just because they are Muslims. In a law which was put into force in 1982, the Rohingya people have lost their citizenship rights therefore; they cannot get educated, benefit from healthcare centers and go abroad so they basically do not have any human rights.



IV. Economic Collapse

The military government has devastated the economy and Myanmarans are fighting with unemployment, high inflation rates and scarcity. The coup caused many investors to back out from Myanmar and most of the foreign companies had shutdown, including banks and factories.

Kyat has lost its value, food and fuel prices increased approximately 10 times they were before. 2 million Myanmaran are living on the hunger threshold because of the raised inflation percentages.

V. International Inaction

As a consequence of aforementioned reasons, human rights are actively being violated. Even though some activists are refusing to stay unresponsive, it is not enough to stop the violation because of the international inaction, inadequate strategies and foreign support towards the junta.

Western countries (the United States of America, European countries, etc.) implemented economic sanctions to erode the military government's authority and undermine the effectiveness of the armed forces. However those sanctions only caused the economy to

collapse, and it only affected the public instead of the armed forces and the military government.

Myanmar's border neighbors had held some meetings with the military government but they were not enough to weaken the government. Meanwhile, *People's Republic of China, Russian Federation and India*, are supporting the current government by giving them military support besides economic support.

VI. Arbitrary Arrestments

The military government can blame any citizen with traitorism and terrorism. The targets of Junta are activists, journalists and lawyers, in order to prevent vox populi from being heard.

More than 22.000 politicians have got arrested for no reason at all, and they are in prisons without being trialed. Activists, journalists and lawyers are being tortured, sexually harassed, and getting killed.

VII. Forced Labor

The military government is supporting and espousing the idea of forced labor and child labor. civilians, especially minors are forced to serve in the army to remove the deficit of soldiers. The powerful companies are in a conspiracy with the junta.

Even 10 year olds are forced to fight without the knowledge of using a weapon. They are just sent to the conflict zones and the military government expects them to fight. Not just to fight, the government is forcing civilians regardless of gender, age, etc. to build military bases, excavate holes, carry food and so on.

VIII. Sexual Harrasments

Myanmar military, is not hesitating to sexually harass civilians and they are using sexual harassment as a weapon. In Rohingya, during the genocide, women and minors got molested. Harassment victims are forced to be quiet. Reporting this rapes are not even often because of the pressure.

IX. Restriction of Media and Press Liberty

The government has restricted news sources and ushered strict internet censorship which caused people to can't communicate. The journalists either get killed or arrested frequently. Several social media platforms got banned and there are harsh punishments for those who use VPN.

Previous Actions

I. The Stance of United Nations

The United Nations (UN) took some actions to give Myanmaris a better life, such as organizing international reports, calling upon help, gathering member states, reporting war crimes, etc. However, Russia and China (and many other countries) are not in favor of censures against the military government in Myanmar, the actions taken by the UN cannot be sufficient, nor efficient.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is frequently sharing reports related to the violations towards Myanmaris. Especially right after the coup, they have published reports including the details of the government's pressure against civilians, arbitrary arrestments, tortures, pressure against media literacy, and the infringement of the right to freedom of speech . The report, published in September 2023, documented that the military operating strikes on civilians, minors are being forced to draft into the army and women are getting harassed frequently.

Fig. 3 Children killed disaggregated by sex

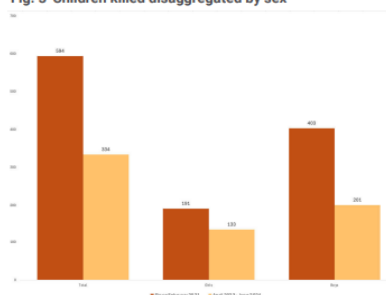
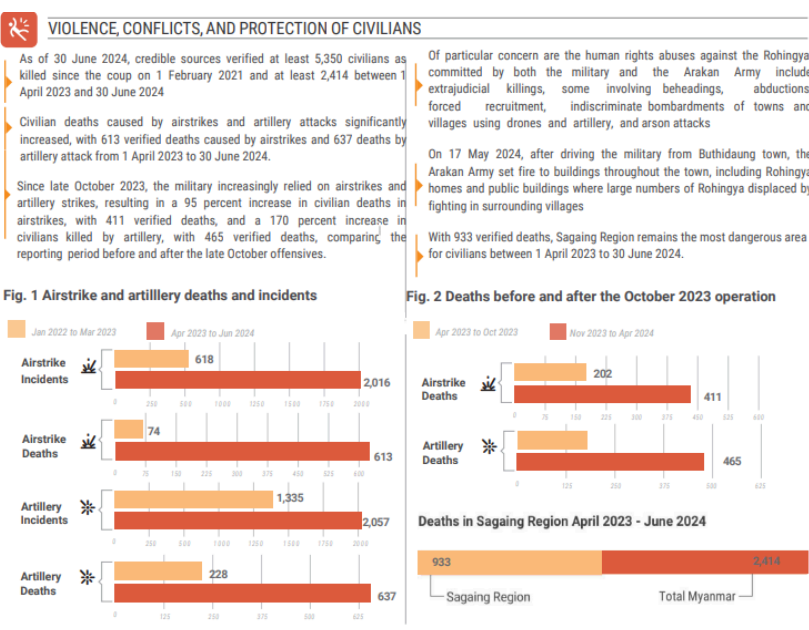
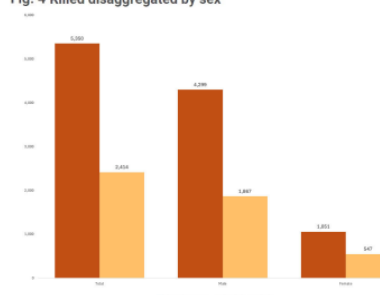


Fig. 4 Killed disaggregated by sex



The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) held meetings about the coup and infringement of human rights, and passed resolutions condemning military violence against civilians. UNHRC clearly stated that the Myanmar armed forces are ignoring the importance of human rights and have committed war crimes to their own citizens in order to gain more power.

The United Nations Organs are organizing campaigns for those who get affected by the harmful consequences of the coup. They are providing aliment such as health care, food and education for migrants migrated to Bangladesh from Rohingya. Meanwhile the military government in Myanmar, is trying to block these supports and making it complicated for aid to reach the aforementioned region. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has reported that too many people cannot reach food and there is a present food crisis in Myanmar but the government is not allowing any help from foreign countries.

Recently, too much effort has been spent to solve the crisis peacefully. The United Nations has attempted to solve it by diplomatic ways and the secretary general announced that they condemn the attitude and called for international help. Unfortunately those diplomatic pressures were not enough to change the attitude of the government and the armed forces kept torturing civilians.

II. The Stance of the Member States

The United States of America (USA) is implementing economic sanctions on military leaders and companies that adhere to the military government. They helped to gather funds over 40 million US Dollars and directed them to NGOs. They have implemented embargos on aircraft fuels to prevent armed forces from striking civilians. The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the United States of America has stated that there is a current genocide in Myanmar and they have supported diplomatic and legal actions to end the genocide.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) has enhanced the policies based on the restrictions on weapon trade. They have implemented weaponry embargo besides the various sanctions for those who are responsible for the genocide in Myanmar. The United Kingdom provided financial and legal support to initiatives to hold Myanmar to account.

The European Union (EU) decided to administer sanctions to the authorized army officials and companies related to the military government. Terminated the trade traffic to discontinue helping Myanmar's economy.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) tried to secure the military regime to prevent Myanmar harsher measures that are going to be taken by other member states. Kept the trade traffic stable between PRC and Myanmar and continued to make infrastructural investments

The Russian Federation has not stopped the trades between Russian Federation and Myanmar including aircrafts and helicopters. Has Defended the new Myanmar government in the United Nations Meetings.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA ITEM II

Culture and heritage are vital to the identity and development of the nations. Unfortunately, many developing nations struggle to retain their cultural identity in the midst of economic concerns, globalization and lack of government assistance. Regression of cultural heritage in these nations implies a loss of historical narratives, traditions, and particular societal values that are unprecedented with such a scale and can adversely affect national cohesion and economic potential.



Current status

Many developing countries find it difficult to balance between modernization and preservation of culture. Urbanization, industrialization and economic development often come at the cost of disappearing cultural sites, traditional practices and local languages. It in turn has been exacerbated by inadequate funding and a deficiency of expertise in cultural conservation. Despite its significance, there remain obstacles to the effective integration of cultural preservation and heritage into sustainable development plans.

Main Problems

- I. **Limited Financial Resources:** The funding required to preserve cultural assets is often lacking in underdeveloped countries. Governments frequently put economic growth ahead of cultural preservation, which results in insufficient funds for museums, restoration initiatives, and cultural education initiatives. Cultural preservation initiatives are particularly susceptible to changing global agendas due to their reliance on outside finance and international grants.
- II. **Urbanization and Infrastructure Development:** Rapid urban expansion and infrastructure projects frequently result in the destruction of historical sites and displacement of traditional communities. Many developing nations lack strong regulatory frameworks to balance modern development with cultural preservation, leading to unchecked demolitions of heritage buildings and sacred sites.
- III. **Erosion of Local Cultures Because of Globalization:** Indigenous customs, dialects, and practices have been gradually eroding as a result of the influence of Western culture, international media, and multinational enterprises. Younger generations may embrace global cultural standards while disregarding their own history due to the effect of digital connectedness and foreign cultural trends. The survival of traditional crafts, music, folklore, and the arts is under danger due to this trend.
- IV. **Destruction of Cultural Heritage Due to Conflict and Political Instability:** Political instability, civil unrest, and military wars frequently lead to the willful destruction of cultural heritage. Libraries, religious places, and historical landmarks have all been attacked by extremist organizations and warring factions in an effort to erase cultural identity and establish control. Instability also makes preservation more difficult by taking funds away from cultural projects and decreasing international collaboration.

- V. **Climate Change:** Cultural heritage places are seriously threatened by pollution, deforestation, natural disasters, and rising temperatures. Rising sea levels, desertification, and harsh weather are threatening many historic sites and traditional communities. Climate change will continue to endanger historical sites in the absence of effective mitigating measures, particularly in areas with inadequate preservation infrastructure.
- VI. **Illegal Cultural Artifact Trafficking and Looting:** In developing countries, the illegal trade in cultural artifacts continues to be a major issue. Smuggling operations that deprive nations of their cultural heritage are made possible by a lack of effective law enforcement, corruption, and a strong market demand for stolen artifacts. Since many antiquities are sold to museums or private collectors overseas, repatriating them is a time-consuming and challenging procedure.
- VII. **Lack of Education and Awareness:** The general public's and policymakers' ignorance of cultural heritage frequently results in its undervaluation. One factor contributing to the disregard for heritage preservation is the lack of cultural history education programs. Sometimes, younger generations might not understand how important it is to preserve traditional languages, skills, and information.



Previous Actions

To stop cultural retreat, several governments and groups have adopted the following actions:

establishing global accords to protect cultural heritage.

establishing national and international funds to aid with restoration initiatives.

supporting neighborhood-based efforts to protect customs and languages.

putting into practice legislation that forbids the unapproved demolition or exploitation of cultural sites.

I. Previous Actions Taken by the United Nations

Through institutions like UNESCO, the UN has taken the lead in preserving cultural treasures. Among the crucial steps are:

The 1972 World Heritage Convention promotes international collaboration in the preservation of important cultural and natural sites while safeguarding cultural and natural heritage around the globe.

In order to ensure that traditions, the performing arts, handicrafts, and regional customs are preserved for future generations, UNESCO maintains lists of intangible cultural heritage.

Resolutions to Prevent Cultural Destruction in Conflicts: The United Nations has denounced the devastation of historical sites in conflict areas and has endeavored to bring those responsible to justice under international law, guaranteeing responsibility and encouraging reconstruction after the conflict.

The UNESCO Creative towns Network promotes innovation, cross-cultural interaction, and sustainable urban planning that places a high priority on preserving historical and cultural assets by encouraging towns to incorporate culture into their development plans.

Programs for Capacity Building: To help local governments and communities manage and conserve their cultural assets more successfully, the UN has offered training and technical support.

II. Previous Actions Taken by the Member States

To combat cultural regression, member states have taken a number of actions:

Law: Strict regulations safeguarding historical places, artifacts, and indigenous cultural manifestations have been passed in several nations. These regulations frequently impose harsh penalties for unauthorized alterations to heritage sites and the unlawful trafficking of cultural goods.

Public-Private Partnerships: Working together with the private sector has been essential to financing cultural initiatives like as restoring historic sites, promoting traditional arts, and setting up museums that showcase regional and national heritage.

Education Programs: To raise awareness among younger generations about the value of maintaining their cultural identity, governments have implemented cultural heritage courses in schools. Digital resources have also been incorporated by certain nations to improve the accessibility and engagement of cultural education.

Tourism Initiatives: In order to preserve historical places and create economic benefits, several countries have created sustainable cultural tourism policies. Strict visitation regulations, the reinvestment of tourism-related income into conservation initiatives, and incentives for local companies and artists to engage in heritage preservation are some examples of these policies.

Indigenous Participation and Community Engagement: Local communities and indigenous organizations play an important role in maintaining cultural heritage, and governments are becoming more aware of this. Numerous programs have been put in place to provide these communities with support for cultural projects, legal acknowledgment of their traditional knowledge and customs, and a role in policymaking.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

the protection of human rights in Myanmar:

Which major human rights abuses are taking place in Myanmar right now?

How can the international community effectively address the human rights situation in Myanmar?

What part should the UN play in holding violators of human rights accountable?

In what ways might ASEAN and its surrounding nations assist Myanmar in defending its human rights?

How can the rights and safety of ethnic minorities, like the Rohingya community, be guaranteed?

What legal procedures are in place in Myanmar to bring human rights offenders to justice?

How can impacted populations receive humanitarian relief efficiently without intervention from the government?

preventing cultural regression in developing nations:

What steps can developing countries take to strike a balance between cultural preservation and modernization?

How may financial limitations in the protection of cultural heritage be addressed?

What part should UNESCO and other international organizations play in aiding developing countries?

How might understanding of cultural heritage be included into educational systems?

What effects does globalization have on cultural identity preservation?

How might initiatives to preserve culture involve indigenous populations more actively?

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