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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

My presentation to you on the crisis in Myanmar comes in three parts:

1. The Best;
2. The Worst; and
3. The Incomprehensible.

**Part One, The Best:**

Remarkable civil society leaders and networks are, as we speak, documenting human rights violations, providing lifesaving aid and organizing non-violent resistance in Myanmar.

If the junta believed their crimes against humanity and war crimes would incapacitate human rights defenders in Myanmar, they made a serious miscalculation.

As I highlight in my written report to you, human rights defenders and journalists are risking their lives to document atrocities. Activists are organizing in communities large and small. Lawyers are risking their lives and careers to represent political prisoners. Doctors are launching mobile clinics. Teachers are setting up alternate education systems.

These heroes are the best of Myanmar and the best of humanity, and they need and deserve your attention, your respect and, most importantly, your support.

**Part Two, The Worst:**

Just days prior to my last update to the Human Rights Council, a Myanmar military helicopter gunship descended on a school in Sagaing Region and soldiers opened fire. Thirteen, including young children, were killed.

I told the Council that each time I addressed them, I had to report that conditions in Myanmar had become even worse than in my previous report. And, I implored the delegates to urge their governments to change course in how they were responding to the crisis, or I could guarentte that I would have even more terrible news in my next report.

Indeed, just a few days ago, at least 50 concertgoers were killed in a junta airstrike in Kachin State. Crimes against humanity and war crimes are the stock-in-trade of the military junta. The junta’s ongoing atrocities reflect the worst of humanity.

I recently spoke to a group of teenagers about their lives since the coup. Changing topics from the horror that they had been experiencing, to their thoughts of what life might be like for them when Myanmar’s nightmare is finally over, I asked:

“What are your hopes, your dreams, for your future?”

“My greatest hope”, a 14-year-old girl told me, “is to have a good night’s sleep.”

She described how she and her family were routinely jarred awake by the sounds of gunfire and shelling; how she spends her nights terrified.

*A good night’s sleep.*

**Part Three: The Incomprehensible.**

Mr. Chairman, the people of Myanmar are disappointed and disturbed by the failure of Member States to help address this crisis in a just, responsible and humane way.

They understand attention is focused elsewhere, including to Ukraine. To be clear, those I speak with support and empathize with the Ukranian people; indeed there is a connection: some of the very types of weapons that are being used to attack the people of Ukraine are being used to attack the people of Myanmar. And they come from the same source, Russia.

But while the people of Myanmar support the defense of Ukraine, they have been waiting eighteen months for action that it took these United Nations four days to take with respect to Ukraine. The Rohingya have been waiting even longer.

Put simply, the people of Myanmar need help.

But not only are too many Member States not helping, there are those that are making things worse. Some continue providing the junta with weapons to attack civilians. Others have indicated a willingness to aid and abet the junta’s sham “election” planned for next year.

Some of Myanmar’s neighbors are detaining or pushing those fleeing the junta’s violence back into conflict areas. In the last few weeks, Malaysia has deported more than 100 Myanmar nationals, including some military deserters, who are likely to be tortured and face the death penalty. This is a gross violation of international law.

Over the past year I have recommended that a coalition of like-minded nations launch a coordinated initiative to deprive the junta of the weapons, finances, and legitimacy it needs to sustain its attacks, while also increasing humanitarian support to the people of Myanmar. This is because the uncoordinated, nonstrategic approach that is now being employed is both inadequate and costing untold numbers of lives. But still, no change in the status quo approach is under way nor even under consideration. For the people of Myanamr, this is incomprehensible.

At the conclusion of my remarks, I normally ask if there are any questions. But today, I’d like to pose a few to you:

* How many of you recognize the international community’s response to this crisis is grossly inadequate and support an immediate course correction?
* Are any Member States willing to help organize a coalition of nations to coordinate their actions into a strategic and powerful whole?
* Are there any members of the Security Council willing to put forward a bold resolution and insist that it move on to the General Assembly if a veto occurs? And,
* Are there any Member States that are willing to increase humanitarian aid to the people of Myanmar including through cross-border aid that can reach significant numbers of people in need?

Distinguished delegates, so much is riding on your answers to these questions.

Let’s stand up to the worst in Myanmar and stand with and for the best. Let’s end the incomprehensible failure to change what is not working, with a new coordinated and strategic approach that has chance to succeed, to save lives.

The template for effective action exists. What is needed now is the political will to engage it. What is needed now is action.

Thank you.