



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva

2 October 2025

[REDACTED]
Officer-in-Charge
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
121 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND
Reference: AL AUS 5/2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 June 2025 conveying a joint communication from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Australia is committed to protecting and promoting universal human rights. All Australian businesses are expected to act responsibly and to consider the human rights impacts of their operations and supply chains. Businesses are obliged to comply with Australian laws, including sanctions law, in their operations. The Australian Government endorses and promotes the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Australia co-sponsored the 2011 adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and encourages businesses to apply them in their operations in Australia and abroad.

Australia has grave concerns about the humanitarian situation in Myanmar and the military regime's ongoing attacks against civilians. Australia has consistently issued statements, including jointly with others, publicly condemning the regime's actions. We take every opportunity to call on the regime to cease violence, release all those unjustly detained, and allow safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance. We strongly urge the regime to engage in genuine and inclusive political dialogue with all stakeholders with a view to a return to a more stable and peaceful Myanmar.

Australia supports the people of Myanmar through humanitarian and development assistance, totalling \$124.8m in 2025-26. We also support international efforts to pursue accountability, including the important work of Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. We continue to monitor the investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Australia also continues to call on the regime to comply with the provisional measures order issued by the International Court of Justice.

The Australian Government does not promote Myanmar as a market for new entrants, and we do not recommend Myanmar for investment. We encourage companies with interests in Myanmar to undertake heightened due diligence and to seek independent advice, including regarding sanctions and human rights obligations, to ensure compliance. Australia's trade promotion agency, Austrade, maintains country guides to assist businesses identify issues and

meet responsible business standards. It provides that, before engaging in any overseas markets, all organisations should conduct thorough due diligence to ensure that their employees, contractors, suppliers, partner organisations, or any other third parties are all meeting the responsible business standards expected by the OECD.

Australia has imposed tough and targeted autonomous sanctions on the Myanmar military regime. These include an arms embargo, targeted financial sanctions and travel bans. All Australians and Australian businesses are required by law to comply with these sanctions. We do not comment on potential sanctions compliance matters.

Australia's sanctions equip us to respond flexibly and effectively to situations of international concern. We seek to impose costs on the Myanmar regime for its actions including human rights abuses, close out the space for weapons proliferation, and address other behaviours that are contrary to Australian values and national interests. Our sanctions reduce the regime's access to funds and arms or related materiel. We continue to keep our sanctions under review, in close consultation with like-minded partners.

The Australian Government works to advance human rights globally through Australia's bilateral relationships, development assistance and engagement with civil society, as well as Australia's engagement in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. We strongly support the efforts of United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, and welcomed his visit to Australia in October 2024.

I trust this information is of assistance. I have copied this letter to the Australian Head of Mission in Myanmar, who has been briefed on the matter and will continue to monitor the situation.

Yours sincerely

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Clare Walsh
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva