



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations  
at the First Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board  
(New York, 7 February 2023)**

**Madam President,**

I wish to join previous speakers in thanking Ambassador Wegter and the other members of the Bureau for convening the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board. I also thank the Executive Director, Ms. Catherine Russell for her opening statement.

I wish to echo the remarks of Ms. Russell on the fact that health, education, safety and future security of children are facing the perils of multiple, simultaneous crises. Thus, efforts to achieve SDGs have stalled in many developing countries, including Myanmar.

In this regard, I commend UNICEF on adapting to the growing risks children face all over the world by investing in key preparedness, analysis and decision-making tools to improve the humanitarian response.

According to UNICEF, Myanmar's health care, education, water and sanitation and child protection were improving until the military junta staged an illegal coup.

Since February 2021, children have been among arbitrarily detained, displaced, held as hostages, in some cases tortured and murdered by the inhumane military across Myanmar. In fact, the children of Myanmar were often the targets of the violence. For example, the military launched airstrikes, artillery attacks and mortar shells into a self-supporting school in Sagain, a kindergarten in Karenni (Kayah) and a child's naming ceremony in Rakhine from September to November last year, killing 11 children in total. 165 children were killed by the junta in 2022 alone, a 78 percent increase from 2021. Schools and children must never be a target of any attacks.

In addition to indiscriminate attacks on children and educational facilities, the junta has been deliberately denying humanitarian access for children. According to OCHA, 5.6 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance, experiencing food insecurity, limited access to clean water, routine immunizations and education. It is imperative that UNICEF follows its mission, as a non-partisan agency, to cooperate with other relevant stakeholders without discrimination for effective, unimpeded aid modalities, including cross-border humanitarian aid and working through local actors and ethnic groups, in line with the principle of no one left behind.

As the military recently imposed its illegal martial law in 37 more townships across the country, the channels for aid delivery will become more restricted and the need for humanitarian assistance for children will continue to accelerate in addition to the further possible atrocities of the military. In this regard, I wish to request the donor states to provide the necessary funding of USD 121 millions to UNICEF to help all children in need, especially those in conflict affected area.

I thank you.