



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

by

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to the United Nations**

**Arria formula meeting on the situation in Myanmar**

**9 April 2021  
New York**

Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Myanmar faces a crisis of democracy and human rights that is having an increasing toll on its population, causes humanitarian distress and threatens peace and stability in the region. Against this backdrop, this Arria formula meeting is a very timely one. Hearing voices from Myanmar clearly evidences the seriousness of the situation and can inform the deliberations at the United Nations. However, public meetings must be complemented by closed deliberations of the Security Council which are much better suited to bridging the existing different positions.

Mr. President,

The actions by the military represent an unacceptable attempt to forcibly overturn the will of the people of Myanmar. Through their high turnout, the people of Myanmar expressed their strong belief in the democratic process in the general elections on 8 November 2020. The elections marked an important milestone in the country's democratic transition. Any allegation of voting irregularities has to be settled within the proper legal and administrative channels. Overturning the choice of the people of Myanmar by force is illegal, against the principles of democracy and takes the country backwards.

Slovakia condemns the violence and the gross and widespread violations of human rights. We call on the military authorities to immediately end the state of emergency, the martial law, restore the legitimate civilian government, allow the parliament to take up its role and end the arbitrary detentions and arrests of President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, other officials and persons.

Last week, Slovakia joined a letter signed by 81 States that expressed deep concern over the attacks on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the situation of journalists and media workers in Myanmar and strongly condemned their harassment, arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as of human rights defenders and other members of civil society. Restricting the freedom of expression has never in history contributed to solving a crisis. Therefore, the freedom of expression, including access to the Internet, must be restored.

To conclude,

It is clear that the national authorities are failing their responsibility to protect the population of Myanmar. In this situation, the Security Council has to assume its special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and ensure the end of atrocities. Deliberate action producing tangible results may require hours of difficult deliberations, however, the United Nations cannot afford to let the people of Myanmar down.

I thank you.