

**INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

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**CASE CONCERNING  
APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON  
THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF  
THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE**

**THE GAMBIA**

**v.**

**MYANMAR**

**SEVENTH REPORT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 86(4) OF  
THE ORDER OF 23 JANUARY 2020**

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**23 MAY 2023**



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## TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Arakan Army
ACLF	Action Contre La Faim
AHA	ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre
ARSA	Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
ASEAN	Association of the Southeast Asian Nations
BP	boundary pillar
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
CIPB	Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body
CNA	Comprehensive Needs Assessment
CSC	Citizenship Scrutiny Card
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EAO	ethnic armed organization
FIR	First Information Report
HLCM	High Level Coordination Meeting
ICOE	Independent Commission of Enquiry
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	internally displaced person
IHL	international humanitarian law
IPD	inpatient department
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MCCT	Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program

MITV	Myanmar International Television
MMA	Myanmar Medical Association
MMK	Myanmar kyat (currency of Myanmar)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
MRCSS	Myanmar Red Cross Society
MRTV	Myanma Radio and Television
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NVC	National Verification Card
OJAG	Office of the Judge Advocate General
OPD	outpatient department
OSWSC	One Stop Women Support Center
QIP	Quick Impact Projects
RI	Relief International
RSO	Rohingya Solidarity Organization
STF-CIPB	Special Task Force of the Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body
TICA	Thai International Cooperation Agency
TOR	terms of reference

USD	United States dollar
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme
WV	World Vision



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its Order of 23 January 2020 (the “**Provisional Measures Order**”), at paragraph 86, the International Court of Justice (the “**Court**”) indicated the following provisional measures:

- (1) [...] The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to the members of the Rohingya group in its territory, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular:
  - (a) killing members of the group;
  - (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to the members of the group;
  - (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and
  - (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (2) [...] The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall, in relation to the members of the Rohingya group in its territory, ensure that its military, as well as any irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it and any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control, direction or influence, do not commit any acts described in point (1) above, or of conspiracy to commit genocide, of direct and public incitement to commit genocide, of attempt to commit genocide, or of complicity in genocide;
- (3) [...] The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- (4) [...] The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within four months, as from the date of this Order, and thereafter every six months, until a final decision on the case is rendered by the Court.

2. In accordance with the fourth of these provisional measures, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (“**Myanmar**”) submitted its first report to the Court (the “**First Report**”) on 22 May 2020, its second report on 23 November 2020 (the “**Second Report**”), its third report on 20 May 2021 (the “**Third Report**”), its fourth report on 23 November 2021 (the “**Fourth Report**”), its fifth report on 23 May 2022 (the “**Fifth Report**”), and its sixth report on 23 November 2022 (the “**Sixth Report**”). Myanmar now submits the present seventh report.
3. Paragraphs 3 to 5 of the First Report apply also to the present report. Notably, once again the action taken by Myanmar to give effect to the Court’s Provisional Measures Order is without prejudice to any of its rights, or its position with regard to any of the issues in these proceedings.
4. The present document reports to the Court on all measures taken since the Sixth Report to give effect to the Provisional Measures Order. This report therefore avoids where possible any repetition of the contents of the six previous reports.
5. The information in this report covers events until 15 April 2023, unless specified otherwise. Later events will be described in the next report.

## **II. The conflict in Northern Rakhine State**

### ***(i) Myanmar Defence Services’ Ceasefire Agreement***

6. On 31 December 2022, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Defence Services issued a statement further extending the unilateral ceasefire period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, and has suspended all military operations except in those situations directly threatening national peace and security. The proclamation itself has an intrinsic intention of restoring perpetual peace across the country, enhancing the peace process, and effectively carrying out prevention, control and treatment activities of COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country. The Myanmar Defence Services has issued a total of 21 ceasefire statements over 4 years starting from 21 December 2018 until 31 December 2022.

7. The five-point Road Map of the State Administration Council<sup>1</sup> is being implemented to strengthen—a genuine and discipline-flourishing multi-party democratic system, to build up a Democratic Federal Union. Peace processes are being constantly undertaken to be able to implement the fourth point of the Road Map, which is that “Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement”.
8. The Country marked its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, which is historically significant and meaningful for the people living in it.
9. As noted in the Sixth Report, on 22 April 2022, the Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on peace and invited the leaders of Ethnic Armed Organizations (“**EAOs**”) to discuss with him in person. Until now, two talks have been held between the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the respective leaders of ten EAOs.<sup>2</sup> During the discussions, matters regarding the strengthening of genuine Multiparty Democratic System in the country, the building up of a Democratic Federal Union, the requests put forward by the EAOs, essential matters that are feasible to implement the development of respective regions and the country, were frankly discussed with a view to benefitting the Union with a positive outcome. In addition, the peace process is being implemented and will continue to carry out the path for peace in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (“**NCA**”).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 101 of the Sixth Report.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 7 and 8 of the Sixth Report.

<sup>3</sup> See **Annex 1: Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace**, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, page 1 and 5 of the *Global New Light of Myanmar* released on 1 January 2023.

*(ii) ARSA activities*

10. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (“**ARSA**”) remains active as a terrorist group, and therefore, in accordance with existing domestic law, the ceasefire announcement does not apply to it. Between 16 October 2022 and 15 January 2023, there were no armed clashes between the Myanmar Defence Services and ARSA. However, ARSA remains active along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and in and around Northern Rakhine State.
11. On 19 October 2022, at about 2000 hrs, Forki Ahmad, also known as Fawe Yas, a 48 year old Bengali from U Hla Pe village, Buthidaung Township, was gunned down near Kyauk Seik Village. The incident was committed by around 5 ARSA terrorists who disguised themselves as civilians. The group was led by Yar Sein Ullah. The victim suffered a gun wound below his neck and is receiving medical treatment at the Buthidaung People’s Hospital. He was gunned down as he was suspected of being an informant for the Myanmar Defence Services, the Border Guard Police Force and administrative authorities.
12. On 22 October 2022, there was an armed clash between the Arakan Army (“**AA**”) and terrorists of the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (“**RSO**”) in an area between Boundary Pillar (BP) No.43 and No.46 along the Myanmar-Bangladesh boundary. Regarding this incident, Ko Ko Lin, also known as Ko Rain, who is spokesperson of the RSO, clarified that the RSO had reached an agreement with the AA to jointly operate around Northern Maungdaw Township and that the AA had violated the agreement and initiated armed attacks against them. During the skirmish, 12 RSO terrorists were reportedly killed, 4 were injured and one person was missing. Nine guns were also missing. The RSO announced that the AA had been attacking their base camps and asked their supporters to conduct a media campaign against the AA via their social media. Following the incident, at 1030 hrs on 23 October 2022, a group of around 100 ARSA terrorists joined the RSO and gathered near BP No.43 to attack the AA.
13. At about 06:30 hours on 18 January 2023, ARSA terrorists operating in the areas between Myanmar-Bangladesh Boundary Pillars 34 and 35 were attacked by about 50 RSO. One RSO member was killed and one RSO member was injured. At about

16:30, the temporary tents of displaced Bengalis illegally staying in the area were set on fire by the RSO. Thirty six ARSA members with one firearm and other paraphernalia that fled to the Bangladesh side mixed with displaced Bengalis were seized by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). There are 4,276 people in 1,200 temporary tents illegally staying in this area. About 400 temporary tents were damaged by fire. After that, the RSO continued to set fire at 20:00 on 19 January and around 04:00 on 20 January 2023, about 700 temporary tents were damaged by fire and only about 100 temporary tents remained. This area is still controlled by the RSO. It was also found that a weapons factory of ARSA that made homemade bombs and homemade guns was destroyed by fire. Among 36 members of ARSA arrested by the BGB, 4 members including the leader Di Marmat (b) Dil Mohammad were detained. The remaining 32 were released on 19 January 2023.

**(iii) Arakan Army activities**

14. The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Defence Services extended the unilateral ceasefire from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. Since then, there have been no armed clashes between the Myanmar Defence Services and the Arakan Army (AA).
15. Nevertheless, the AA has continued to abduct and launch attacks against civilians and members of the Myanmar Police Force. On 16 October 2022, around 5 members of the AA abducted a 60 year old Bengali man named Mahmad Cedez, from Pha Yone Chaung (Bengali) village, Buthidaung Township, to Kant Kaw Mying (Na Ta La) village. Similarly, at about 0200 hrs on 31 October 2022, around 100 members of the AA from Kyauk Taw Township to Gaung Toke (Bengali) village abducted an unidentified Bengali man to Latpan Te Su village. In addition, at about 0600 hrs on 2 November 2022, around 15 members of the AA came to Ahle Kyun (Bengali) village in Kyauk Taw Township and abducted a 23 year old man named Shabi Salam to Latpan Te Su village and forced him to join the AA. Comparably, at about 1130 hrs, 27 November 2022, Ah Thi and his friend from Maung Ni Ward, Maungdaw Township were abducted by the AA on their way from Sittwe to Buthidaung Township. They were abducted near Yay Myat village by 10 members of the AA.

16. Moreover, at 1030 hrs on 4 November 2022, Police Lieutenant Win Htun Naing and police personnel Zaw Win were abducted by 6 members of the AA near San Htway village.
17. Despite the fact that the Myanmar Defence Services ceased all its military operations, the AA has launched attacks against members of the Myanmar Police Force who were performing their law enforcement duties in the region. At 1910 hrs on 17 October 2022, the AA attacked police force personnel on duty nearby Kispandadi Bridge, 5 miles away from Myoe Ma Police Station, Kyauk Taw Township. At 1605 hrs on 26 October 2022, a group of about 40 AA attacked Chain Khar Li Police Outpost in Rathedaung Township, resulting in the injury of one member of the Myanmar Police Force and the loss of two guns with cartridges . At 0705 hrs on 2 November 2022, a convoy of Police Force vehicles on Maungdaw-Labawzar-Pyin Phyu-Kyee Kan Pyin Highway Road was ambushed with mine explosion. Comparably, at 0642 hrs on 10 November 2022, the AA ambushed a convoy of security forces vehicles, carrying 4,000 million Myanmar Kyats and staff members of the bank from the Ponnagyun Township Branch of the Myanmar Economic Bank, which resulted in the destruction of a vehicle. Furthermore, on 16 November 2022, AA attacked No.7 Border Guard Police located near the Laung Don (Mro) village, which resulted in civilian casualties. Detailed information of civilian casualties of that incident is given below.
18. At about 10:40 on 22 January 2023, 6 Bengalis from Tha Yet Taung (Bengali) village, Gutar Pyin village tract, Buthidaung Township were abducted by the AA while they were chopping bamboo/wood on the ridge of Mayu. They were released on 30 January 2023.
19. At about 06:05 on 5 April 2023, about 80 members of the AA arrived at Ywar Thit village, Paung Tote village tract, Mrauk-U Township to abduct Mata Lang and Zaw Baw who had stabbed by sword the village administrator appointed by the AA. After that, the AA fired 20 shots at Zaw Baw's house. During the incident, 3 people including Mata Lang and Zaw Baw were injured and 35 Muslims were abducted and examined. Among them, 5 under age were released, and the remaining 30 were abducted.

*(iv) Civilians displaced by the conflict*

20. As of 15 April 2023, 60,260 people remained displaced as a result of the past armed clashes between the Myanmar Defence Services and Myanmar Border Guard Police on the one hand and the Arakan Army (AA) on the other. Amongst them, 3,112 are temporarily staying at their relatives' homes in neighbouring villages, while the rest are taking shelter at temporary relief sites.
21. The table below gives a breakdown of the above mentioned figure by townships.

No.	Township	Number of displaced civilians by the conflicts
1.	Buthidaung (five Muslim villages)	848
2.	Buthidaung (Others)	5,566
3.	Ponnagyun	1,312
4.	Rathedaung	19,137
5.	Pauktaw	63
6.	Sittwe	2,456
7.	Mrauk-U	20,317
8.	Kyauktaw	10,192
9.	Myebon	369
<b>Total</b>		<b>60,260</b>

22. The people referred to in item 1 of the table above are Bengalis, while the rest are not. The table above shows only those displaced persons who have taken shelter at temporary relief sites or who are temporarily staying in relatives' homes in nearby villages due to the past armed clashes with the Arakan Army (AA) since 2019. It does not include those displaced by the events of 2012, 2016 and 2017.

(v) *Civilian casualties*

23. From 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, there were no major armed clashes between the Myanmar Defence Services and the Arakan Army (AA). Nevertheless, there were

5 deadly armed attacks launched by the AA against the Myanmar Police Force and villages where civilians are residing. Amongst the incidents, an attack against Laung Don (Mro) village on 16 November 2022 resulted in civilian casualties. During the incident, 11 Mro including 4 children were killed, while 23 Mro including 14 children were wounded due to shelling from the AA. Myanmar is confident of the accuracy of the figures mentioned above, even in cases where open source materials may suggest different figures. There have also been no verifiable acts of targeted or indiscriminate attacks directed against any civilians including Bengalis.

### **III. Measures taken to implement the Provisional Measures Order**

#### ***(i) The three directives issued by the Office of the President***

24. The respective Union Ministries and State and Region Governments have submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs periodic reports pursuant to the Directive on Compliance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide for the periods of October 2022 to April 2023. The respective Union Ministries and State and Region Governments have submitted periodic reports pursuant to Directive on Prevention of Incitement to Hatred and Violence (or) Prevention of Proliferation of Hate Speech and the Directive on prevention of Evidence and Property in Areas of northern Rakhine State for the period October 2022 to April 2023.
25. The Union Ministries and State and Region Governments have also reported that there have been no violations of any of the three Directives in the reporting period(s). Additionally, no criminal case or complaint has been filed regarding killings/murder, rape or torture allegedly committed by Government officials/staff or military/police personnel against any Bengalis.

#### ***(ii) Civilian accountability***

26. Although efforts have been mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the CIPB has nevertheless been impacted, hampering investigations and delaying court proceedings. Therefore, to be more operative of the progress of the

Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body (CIPB), Special Task Force of the Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body (STF-CIPB) was formed on 2 February 2023 with CIPB Order No.1/2023. The work of the STF-CIPB is to support all the work of the CIPB. This Unit was formed during the meeting of the CIPB on 2 February 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw. Two days after the meeting, the members of the SU-CIPB went to Rakhine State and met with the respective officials concerned and discussed the cases mentioned in ICOE Report and its progress.

27. The status of the 139 cases under investigation and prosecution by the Task Force are as follows.
28. Members of ARSA and their collaborators were the apparent perpetrators in 87 cases relating to offences of murder, looting and destruction of property. Of these 87 cases, 26 cases are under police investigation, 35 cases are under court proceedings for the absconding of accused person, 2 cases are discharged by the court, one case has led to an acquittal by the court, 12 cases were sentenced to imprisonment from 10 years to 15 years by the court under the Counter Terrorism Law, 11 cases were closed for insufficient evidence, and no remaining ARSA related cases among the cases mentioned in the Independent Commission of Enquiry report are opened First Information Report.
29. Of the 23 cases where the accusations were against members of the Border Guard Police, 7 cases have been closed for lack of evidence, 6 cases are under investigation, 2 cases were sentenced by the Police Court under the Myanmar Police Force Maintenance of Discipline Law, and 8 cases had been temporarily closed by proclamation order under sections 87 and 88 of the Code of Criminal Procedure due to the accused persons absconding.
30. Of the 29 cases where the alleged perpetrators were local people, 13 cases are under police investigation, 8 cases have been closed for insufficient evidence, 5 cases are under court proceedings for the absconding of accused person, 3 cases were sentenced by the court with imprisonment, and no cases are under consideration by the Task Force.

*(iii) Proceedings within the military justice system*

31. The Special Court of Inquiry led by Major General Myat Kyaw was established to investigate the incidents in Chut Pyin village during ARSA terrorist attacks of August 2017. However, the investigation was adjourned temporarily because of many challenges including outbreak of COVID-19 and travel restrictions, inability to collect witnesses' statements as those who involved in the incident were no longer residing in Chut Pyin and nearby villages due to the ARSA terrorist attacks. After the then chairperson of the Special Court of Inquiry, Major General Myat Kyaw, retired from the Myanmar Defence Services, the Special Court of Inquiry was re-constituted with Brigadier General Soe Tint taking the chair. The team members of the court visited Buthidaung town from 22 February to 3 March 2023 and continued investigations over the incident.
32. During the inquiry, the team members, based in Buthidaung Town, met with 6 Bengali residents from Du Oe Thei Ma village, Buthidaung township, and 5 Rakhine residents of Chut Pyin (Rakhine) village, Rathedaung township, and 5 prisoners from Buthidaung prison who attacked the Chut Pyin (Bengali) village, and properly collected the testimonies according to the prescribed rules and procedures.
33. Contrary to the allegations in the article quoted by The Gambia in its letter dated 21 March 2023 opposing the request of Myanmar for an extension of the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial, there was no coercion and intimidation of those who testified. The testimonies were collected from the witnesses according to Rule 22 of The Defence Services Rules (see **Annex 2**), and those testifying were at liberty to testify the true accounts of events as they have experienced. After completion of the collecting of testimonies, the witnesses were properly sent back to their residences.

*(iv) International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Training*

34. The Office of the Judge Advocate General (“**OJAG**”) regularly conducts awareness-raising trainings relating to International Humanitarian Law (“**IHL**”) for military personnel of all ranks, which are held at various military training schools and military academies (see **Annex 3**). From 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, OJAG delivered 350 talks and discussions on legal awareness of IHL to all military officers/senior

officers and personnel of other ranks in each battalion/unit and training institute. In addition, OJAG delivered lectures on IHL to 5,436 trainee military officers/senior officers and personnel of other ranks at the Battalion Commander Training Course, the Company Commander Training Course, the Platoon Commander Training Course, the Special Platoon Commander Training Course, Command and General Staff College trainings, the Defence Services Technological Academy trainings, Diploma in Law Course, Leadership and Management Course (Basic), Leadership and Management Officer Course (Advance), the Basic Military Training Course, Air Defence Weapon Course (Heavy Machine gun), the Basic Military Legal Training Course, and the Computer Diploma Sergeant Clerk Course. An official of the Myanmar Human Rights Commission, delivered lectures on human rights in Township Police Commander Course No. (62/2022) on 1 December 2022 and Investigation Officer Course No. (191/2022) on 14 November 2022 respectively.

**(v) Measures to combat hate speech**

35. Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International Television (MITV) and radio channels are broadcasting programmes to educate the public on the harmful effects of hate speech on society and to counter the spread of hate speech, to raise awareness of preventing the proliferation of hate speech, discrimination and violence within communities, and of preventing any speech or act of incitement to violence on the basis of race, religion, gender or other identity factor.
36. Between 16 October 2022 and 15 April 2023, the Ministry of Information broadcast 110 programmes through radio about prevention of hate speech and 1,071 announcements to raise awareness of anti-hate speech and violence to nationwide audiences in 17 ethnic dialects. In addition, MRTV and MITV regularly air public service announcements on State television to counter incitement to hatred and violence and to prevent the proliferation of hate speech. These broadcasts have been in both the Myanmar and English languages.
37. In order to prevent the spread of hate speech between communities in Rakhine State, the Regional Government, respective District/Township Administration team, city elders and religious leaders are cooperating in these efforts.

38. Regarding the allegations in The Gambia's observations on Myanmar's Sixth Report that anti-Muslim leaflets were dropped from helicopters in the Sagaing and Magway Regions, Myanmar denies that any such action has been carried out.

***(vi) Repatriation to Myanmar from Bangladesh***

39. Myanmar has been working hard to repatriate displaced persons from Bangladesh to Myanmar despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country.

40. Myanmar continues to verifying the lists of individuals provided by Bangladesh. Bangladesh has provided Myanmar with six batches of verification forms, containing a total of 828,829 persons for verification. During the period from 7 January 2022 to 15 April 2023, Myanmar scrutinized 39,980 persons from 8,642 households. Of those, 28,845 were verified by Myanmar as former residents of Rakhine State and 542 were found to be involved in terrorist acts. There were 10,593 persons whose records could not be found within the system. In total, 87,818 persons have been scrutinized out of the 828,879 persons provided by Bangladesh.

41. In its observations on the Sixth Provisional Measures Report, The Gambia claims that "Myanmar only reviewed 7% of the 828,829 names received from Bangladesh". Myanmar notes in this respect as follows.

42. Although Bangladesh provided a list of 828,829 persons, the actual number of people who left Rakhine State is found to be 540,779 persons from 56,465 households. Moreover, the authorities of Myanmar have faced difficulties while scrutinizing the names and verification forms provided by Bangladesh.

43. In the beginning of the verification process, the Bangladesh side presented forms which were not the mutually agreed verification forms annexed to the Physical Arrangement. Myanmar made a number of notifications to Bangladesh to comply with the agreement and use the mutually agreed forms. Despite the above-mentioned technical issues, Myanmar verified the people in the list.

44. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Working Group meeting, Bangladesh provided verification forms which were found to be lacking the declaration by the head of the family that (i) the application to return and live in Myanmar was made voluntarily without any threat or

encouragement, and (ii) if permission is granted to enter Myanmar, those entering will abide by the existing laws of Myanmar. Therefore, Myanmar called upon the Bangladesh authorities to correct this accordance with the agreed Physical Arrangement.

45. Some of the other difficulties are as follows:
- (1) incorrect data contained in the verification forms received from Bangladesh;
  - (2) forms received from Bangladesh in respect of persons who had already moved to Bangladesh before September 2017;
  - (3) forms received from Bangladesh in respect of persons who, despite claiming to have parents in Myanmar, indicated that their place of birth was in Bangladesh;
  - (4) forms received from Bangladesh with photographs of such poor quality and resolution as to make it impossible to verify the person's identity; and
  - (5) forms received from Bangladesh indicating the person's address in Myanmar as being in a Township other than the Township of their original residence in Maungdaw, Buthidaung or Rathedaung Township.
46. The Memorandum of Understanding (“**MoU**”) between the Ministry of Immigration and Population, UNDP and UNHCR<sup>4</sup> will expire on 10 March 2023 and a new MoU to extend the cooperation between the parties until 10 March 2024 is in the pipelines by means of exchange of letters. As the procedure to extend the MoU by means of Letter of Exchange (LoE) is currently ongoing, the current 95 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) projects under the MoU are pending for the time being.
47. Coordination and discussions are under way with the Bangladesh side to commence the repatriation through Pilot Projects. Due to some limitations as a consequence of the current situation on the ground, and incomplete arrangements from the Bangladesh side (as the Bangladesh is side unable to complete necessary tasks on time), it is less feasible to receive returnees via the land route through Taung Pyo Letwe Transit camp in Maungdaw. Nonetheless, since 4 November 2022, Myanmar has proposed to the Bangladesh side to use an alternative route by waterway, through Ngakhuya reception

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<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 69 of the Fifth Report.

camp, and has made known to Bangladesh its readiness and willingness to receive verified returnees through this route.

48. On 22 February 2023, Myanmar and Bangladesh held a virtual technical meeting in preparation for the visit of Myanmar Technical Team to Teknaf, Bangladesh. From 15 to 22 March 2023, the Myanmar Technical Team visited Teknaf, Bangladesh, where it conducted in-person interviews with additional family members of the 711 displaced people. Of them, it is found that 465 people are eligible for repatriation.
49. In order to begin the Pilot Project before the monsoon (June) 2023, Myanmar and Bangladesh are now in negotiations to repatriate 1,176 people (223 family households). To start the Pilot Project, the Myanmar side is carrying out the necessary preparations for the resettlement of displaced people in their respective villages.
50. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“**ASEAN**”) has also been assisting Myanmar in the repatriation process through the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre (“**AHA**”). The Chairman's Statement of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit welcomed the outcomes of the 4 High-Level Coordination Meeting, particularly the endorsement of projects to further advance the implementation of the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (“**PNA**”), and emphasised the need for the completion of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow, and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas for ASEAN to effectively facilitate the repatriation process. The statement also reaffirmed ASEAN's continued support to bring peace, stability, and the rule of law, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as promote sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State, and welcomed the outcomes of the 5th Meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG). The full document of the Chairman's Statement of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit appear as **Annex 4** of this report.
51. Under the Preliminary Needs Assessment (“**PNA**”), there are discussions underway to implement three projects with funding from the Thai International Cooperation Agency (TICA), namely Provision of Equipment to facilitate the verification process at the reception centres, Provision and Promotion of Agricultural Machinery Equipment and Modern Agriculture Techniques and Development of Model

Community Fish Pond in Maungdaw, and Enhancement of the Capacity of the Myothagee Hatchery. The Ministry of Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation are implementing the three projects under the PNA<sup>5</sup> with the support from TICA. The machinery equipment provided under the Project on Provision and Promotion of Agriculture Machinery and Equipment and Modern Agriculture Techniques was delivered to Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships in June 2022 and has been assembled since 15 June 2022. The only remaining portion of the project is capacity building training, which is under coordination and discussion with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand.

52. There are eleven prioritized projects, four of which are under implementation to facilitate the repatriation process and to promote development in Rakhine State. Out of the remaining seven prioritized projects, five were endorsed at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Coordination Meeting (HLCM),<sup>6</sup> held on 22 July 2022 via video conference. During the 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Working Group meeting, three additional projects were identified as new projects and will be submitted to the upcoming HLCM meeting. These projects are strengthening the management and delivery of social media content by the relevant Myanmar Government Agencies on the repatriation process, Strengthening health literacy promotion and essential health services in Rakhine State, and Enhancement of Capacity Building for Developing the Agriculture Sector in Rakhine State.
53. During the 4<sup>th</sup> HLCM meeting, the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNAs) was re-submitted by the AHA Centre. After scrutiny of the draft by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, permission to carry out Comprehensive Needs Assessments was submitted to the State Administration Council which granted permission in principle.

***(vii) Resettlement of internally displaced persons***

54. The Government of Myanmar has made continuing efforts on the resettlement of displaced persons and has continued working on the national strategy to close

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<sup>5</sup> See paragraph 66 of the Fourth Report.

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 11 of the Fourth Report.

internally displaced person (“IDP”) camps in spite of difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

55. The 3/2022 Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State was held on 20 December 2022. The meeting discussed and reviewed the arrangements for the possible returnees under pilot project and humanitarian assistance prepared to provide upon their arrival to Rakhine State. The meeting further discussed the issues arise and the difficulties faced on ground in verifying the names provided by Bangladesh due to incomplete/ wrong information filled in the forms and ways to overcome them.
56. The 3/2022 working group Meeting of the National Committee on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the Closure of IDP Camps was held on 27 December 2022. The meeting discussed the closure of IDPs camps throughout the country, including IDP camps in Rakhine State.
57. The latest developments in the Kyauk Ta Lone camp closure are as follows:
  - (1) Discussions with elders and committee members in the camp were held for the relocation of the IDPs. Although some wished to resettle in their previous wards and quarters, there were also concerns about resurgence of community conflicts.
  - (2) The new location was charted and plotted for the new town. Developments of building 368 houses, 3 staff housing for teachers, and amenities such as water supply, roads and bridges. Additional ones such as village hall, latrines, electricity lines and transformers, Administration office, staff housing building, water pump station in case of monsoon floods are underway.
  - (3) The Rakhine State Committee has been instructed to finalize the ongoing projects at Kyauk Ta Lone and to start resettlement in the finished housings bas soon as possible. The development photos appear as **Annex 5** of this report.

*(viii) Preservation of property and evidence*

58. In the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 January 2023, no incidents have occurred in the townships of Rathedaung, Maungdaw and Buthidaung in the context of the destruction of evidence related to allegations of crimes within the scope of the

Provisional Measures Order. The local authorities and law enforcement agencies in the townships are also paying serious attention to preventing destruction of evidence and property in accordance with the instructions and directives from the Central Government and concerned Union Ministries.

***(ix) Action on sexual violence***

59. Between 16 January and 15 April 2023, 38 gender-based violence cases have been submitted to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Of these, eight took place in Rakhine State. Three of these victims were Rakhine women and five were Bangalis.
60. The three Rakhine victims have been provided with physical and mental support and assistance in taking legal action against the perpetrators. In the case of Bengali women, as they require protection, the 5 victims and their 5 relatives (mother/children) were sent to One Stop Women Support Center (OSWSC) since 24 February 2023. Among the Bengali victims, one of them was returned to her father's care according to her wish. The perpetrators were prosecuted under Section 376 of the Penal Code.
61. The Muslim victim reported in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Sixth Report, together with her four children, was returned back to her home upon her request on 13 December 2022, after having been taken care of at the Temporary Safe House in Sittwe Township from 3 October 2022 to 13 December 2022. Moreover, she has been provided with cash assistance of MMK 100,000 (nearly USD 40) for her legal action and MMK 400,000 (nearly USD 200) for her livelihood.
62. To boost the implementation of the National Action Plan, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has conducted a capacity-building training for two consecutive days for 50 relevant government personnel, to raise awareness for protection, prevention and response to sexual violence.

***(x) Birth registrations for children born in Rakhine State***

63. In the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, birth certificates were issued to 5,319 Bengali children born in Rakhine State as follows:

No.	District	Township	Total number of birth certificates issued to Bengali children born in Rakhine State
1.	Sittwe	Sittwe General Hospital	93
2.		Sittwe	66
3.		Pauktaw	474
4.	Mrauk-U	Minbya	51
5.	Maungdaw	Maungdaw	1,135
		Buthidaung	3,491
6.	Kyaukphyu	Kyaukphyu	6
		Ramree	3
Total			5,319

*(xi) Citizenship and residence rights*

64. During the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, the Government of Myanmar issued 38 Citizenship Scrutiny Cards, 1,399 Naturalized Citizenship Scrutiny Cards, and 4,824 National Verification Cards (“NVCs”) to Bengalis. Currently, 3,414 Bengalis have submitted applications for Citizenship in accordance with Section 65 of the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. Three information sessions on NVCs were held in Sittwe Township on 3 October 2022, 10 December 2022 and 30 December 2022 respectively. In order to strengthen the scope and momentum of the NVC process, the concerned authorities are working closely with international organizations and INGOs such as UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, MSF, ICRC as well as social organizations including Leaders of Interfaith organization, Muslim welfare organizations, the Islam Religious Council, Islam Ulmar also known as Mawlawi Organization and Islamic youth organizations.

65. During the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, Myanmar authorities have issued 436 household registration lists for households with NVC holders and 12 household registration lists for households with Citizenship Scrutiny Cards or Naturalized Citizenship Scrutiny Cards holders in Rakhine State.
66. The Government of Myanmar stands ready to receive verified displaced persons from Rakhine State and to confer relevant citizenship status to those who meet the criteria in accordance with the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law.

*(xii) Education for Bengalis*

67. During the academic year 2022-2023, a total of 176 schools in Rakhine State were upgraded in the Basic Education sector. A total of 108 Primary Schools were upgraded to Middle Schools and 68 Middle Schools were upgraded to High Schools.
68. Within the 2021-2022 academic year, 733 Bengali students (32.11 percent of those who took the exam) passed the Matriculation examination. In comparison, 48.31 percent of Rakhine students and 36.44 percent of other ethnic students who took the exam also passed. There is no discrimination imposed on Bengali students' rights for education.
69. Regarding the university education, there are 826 Bengali students receiving education at Sittwe University. Furthermore, a total of 14 Bengali students registered to attend Taungup University of Distance Education for academic year 2022-2023.
70. With regards to the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the students, among Bengali students aged between 5 to 12, a total of 270,189 students received their first COVID-19 vaccinations (see the table at **Annex 6**). Those aged 12 to 18 years were given 13,049 booster doses. For higher level education, a total of 614 Bengali students from Sittwe University had received COVID-19 vaccinations.

*(xiii) Health care services*

71. The Government of Myanmar is striving for the implementations of a healthcare system to cover the whole country. To enable everyone to enjoy full life expectancy, longevity of life, the Ministry of Health (“MOH”), with medical corps from the

Myanmar Defence Services, is providing healthcare services and effective treatments throughout the country, including remote rural areas in Rakhine State. Meanwhile, the requirements of MOH facilities in Rakhine State are being fulfilled so that public health services can be provided at full capacity. In the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, 65,362 Bengalis were provided required medical treatments and healthcare services at Inpatient Departments, Outpatient Departments and mobile clinics under MOH facilities in Rakhine State. Further details are provided in **Annex 7** to this Report.

72. Moreover, as primary healthcare units in IDP camps, mobile clinics of the Ministry of Health, together with Mercy Malaysia, International Rescue Committee, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) and Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), are providing necessary healthcare services and treatments to 59,452 Bengalis in IDP Camps regardless of their background. A detailed list of the number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services at mobile clinics in IDP camps is attached as **Annex 8** to this Report.
73. Contrary to what is claimed in paragraph 23 of The Gambia's observations on the Sixth Report, the true fact is that the Ministry of Health is providing healthcare services and medical treatments in Rakhine State to all communities. Therefore, access to healthcare services and treatments are available 24/7 for all communities at "zero" cost regardless of race and religion, including Bengalis, at the 72 hospitals (ranging from 16 bedded hospitals to 500 bedded hospitals) and 727 clinics, and rural and sub-rural healthcare centers under the Ministry of Health, in 17 townships of Rakhine State. Transportation is also provided to deliver emergency patients to the nearest mobile clinics, hospitals and/or healthcare centers of MOH facilities by the relevant healthcare professionals/workers and authorities, in association with INGOs, NGOs, for those who need to receive emergency healthcare treatment, especially at night time. In a similar vein, medical corps from the Myanmar Defence Services are also providing healthcare services and effective medical treatments at their medical facilities stationed in Rakhine State. Photographs of Bengalis receiving healthcare services by the medical corps of the Myanmar Defence Services appears as **Annex 9** to this Report.

74. Paragraph 24 of the Gambia’s observations on the Sixth Report quotes a UNHCR report dated 9 September 2022, which refers a pregnant woman being “... unwilling to seek medical care due to a cumbersome and costly administrative process involving the need for approval from local administrators, male escorts, and navigating security checkpoints where extortion is common”. Myanmar rejects this allegation as all pregnant women and children in all communities can receive primary healthcare services and treatments not only in IDP Camps but also at all MOH facilities without any discrimination. For those in need of emergency healthcare services during pregnancy and labour, transportation is also provided in time for patient referral from IDP camps to relevant hospitals or healthcare centers. In 2022, 3,760 Bengali pregnant women and 4,654 Bengali children received medical treatments in IDP camps, while 9,171 Bengali pregnant women and 11,305 Bengali children were provided with effective medical treatments at MOH facilities. Photographs of Bengali women and children receiving healthcare services are attached as **Annex 10** to this Report.

*(xiv) Maternal and child support*

75. In Rakhine State, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (“**MOSWRR**”) has been implementing the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program for pregnant women and their children up to 2 years of age (MCCT). For the first quarter (April, May, June) of the 2022-2023` fiscal year, it provided total of MMK 1,308,945,000 (approximately USD 623,307) to 5,883 Bengali pregnant women and 25,023 Bengali children under the MCCT program. There is a programme for the provision of social pensions to older people aged 85 years and above in Rakhine State. Its beneficiaries include 67 male and 62 female Bengalis. A total of MMK 3,870,000 (approximately USD 1,843) was provided to these 129 Bengali beneficiaries in 17 townships in Rakhine State during the third quarter (October, November, December) of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

76. International organizations such as Save the Children International and Action Contre La Faim (ACLF) also continued to provide nutritional powders to Bengali pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and children under 5 years old, in association with the authorities.

*(xv) Provision of food*

77. The Government has continued to allow humanitarian assistance activities to be carried out in Rakhine State by United Nations agencies and local and international non-governmental organizations, such as the World Food Programme (“WFP”), Save the Children, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Relief International (RI), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and World Vision (WV), except in areas where security conditions are unfavourable. These humanitarian assistance activities include conducting need assessments for shelters, and providing food and health-care services by mobile clinics. There are no restrictions on humanitarian assistance in IDP camps and shelters.
78. The Government also granted travel permission to foreign personnel and local staff from international organisations and NGOs in accordance with the Memorandums of Understanding signed between the respective organizations and the relevant Ministry at the Union level to provide humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, except in areas where security risks prevail.
79. In fact the Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Ko Ko Hlaing, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee, led a team comprising the officials and diplomats of ASEAN countries, China, India and Bangladesh embassies and representatives of the AHA Centre to inspect the vocational training schools, relocation of IDP camps and issuance of NVC (National Verification Card) in Rakhine State in March 2023. Therefore, the allegation of The Gambia in its observations on Myanmar's Sixth Provisional Measures Report that Myanmar is prohibiting access to the northern Rakhine State is baseless. Myanmar continues to prove its willingness and committed efforts to the repatriation process as well as peace and development of all communities in Rakhine State.
80. In addition, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, 16 visits to Rakhine State have been granted to Embassies in Myanmar, including those of the European Union (ECHO office), the Russian Federation, Turkiye, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Canada, and

Switzerland. WFP also visited Sittwe during the reporting period to oversee its projects in the Rakhine State.

81. The effective distribution of food and humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State is primarily the responsibility of the MOSWRR. From 16 October 2022 to 30 March 2023, the MOSWRR distributed supplies (cash, relief items) to 1,630 persons affected by natural disaster and man-made disaster, including 479 affected households, involving 29 deaths and 69 injuries, with a value of MMK 46,471,008 (approximately USD 22,129). Additionally, the MOSWRR provided relief items and cash assistance for their way back home from temporary shelters to 2,014 households which included 8,252 people from Minbya, Myebon, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U, Kyauk Taw and Ann Township, with a value of MMK 390,586,644 (approximately USD 185,994).
82. The World Food Programme (“WFP”) is providing humanitarian assistance to people living in Rakhine State in kind and in cash. From 16 October 2022 to 15 January 2023, WFP provided rice and cash assistance with a value of MMK 18,678,218,000 (approximately USD 8,894,390) to 181,566 people in IDP camps in Rakhine State. Additionally, WFP delivered cash assistance with a value of MMK 3,583,099,000 (approximately USD 1,706,238 ) to 40,216 persons who are living in temporary shelters in Kyauk Taw, Mauk-U, Myebon, Ann, Minbya, Pauk Taw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe Townships due to conflicts in Rakhine State.
83. In the same period, World Vision in cooperation with WFP also provided humanitarian assistance such as rice, beans, oil, salt, nutritional powder and soap to 23,768 people from 63 villages in Maungdaw Township and 124,136 people from 166 villages in Buthidaung Township.

*(xvi) The COVID-19 pandemic*

84. The Government of Myanmar is prioritizing to take its effective measures with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the Ministry of Health received a total of 22,822,800 doses of various kinds of COVID-19 vaccinations from friendly countries such as China, India, Russia and Thailand. In addition, Myanmar has successfully produced 3,901,955 doses of the “Myancopharm” COVID-19 vaccine starting from 23 March 2022. With collective efforts, the Ministry

of Health ensures to reach those inoculations to all people without any discrimination or restriction, and without any requirement for the production of an identity document such as a CSC or NVC.

85. In Rakhine State, first dose vaccination covers 94.96 of its population while second dose vaccination reaches 82.02 %. Likewise, 48.33 % of the whole population in Rakhine State received booster dose respectively. A list of people receiving COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses in 17 townships of Rakhine State during the period from 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023 appears as **Annex 11** to this Report.
86. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health also conducts inoculation programmes in temporary relief sites and IDP camps in Rakhine State. From 16 October 2022 to 215 April 2023, a total of 12,562 people in temporary relief sites started receiving booster doses after completing their inoculation cycle. A detailed list is given in **Annex 12** to this report. In the same period, 2,150 Bengalis received their first jabs, 1,444 of those completed their second jabs while 12,289 of those received Booster doses at fixed posts. A detailed list and photographs of Bengalis in IDP camps receiving COVID-19 vaccination appear as **Annex 13** to this report. A total of 65,910 people in IDP camps have now received their first dose (99.09% of the target number of 66,512 given in Appendix 2 of the Fourth Report), while 43,809 of those have completed their inoculation cycle (65.86% of the targeted number) and 30,735 of those received their booster dose (46% of the targeted number).
87. Simultaneously, COVID-19 vaccinations for students aged 5-12 and aged 12-18 are carried out under the guidance of the relevant administration, with the assistance of relevant officials from public health departments and education departments. To date, 41.31% of students aged 5-12 are fully vaccinated while 63.66% of students aged 12-18 completed their vaccination cycle in Rakhine State. Photographs of students receiving vaccination shots are attached as **Annex 14** to this Report.
88. Efforts have been made to reserve supplies of oxygen on standby for COVID-19 patients in Rakhine State. Facilitated oxygen plants can daily produce enough oxygen supplies for 760 of 40 litre oxygen cylinders. Isolation beds, ICU beds, ventilators, transport ventilators, patient monitors and oxygen therapy beds are facilitated withal at 17 People Hospitals and 17 COVID-19 treatment centres in Rakhine State.

Consequently, there is only one case reported in the whole of Rakhine State in the last 6 month period. There have been no reported cases of COVID-19 in Bengali IDP camps from 16 October 2022 until the end of April 2023.

*(xvii) Illegal entry during the COVID-19 pandemic*

89. As mentioned in paragraph 147 of the Second Report, in order to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic, certain law enforcement measures have been taken to prevent illegal entry of persons into Myanmar from other countries.
90. From 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023, a total of 459 foreigners were prosecuted under Section 3 (1) and Section 13 (1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947 for illegal entry into Myanmar. Out of those persons, 160 held China passports, 2 held Hong Kong passports, 138 held Bangladesh passports, 48 held India passports, 36 held Thailand passports, 19 held Indonesia passports, 15 held Philippine passports, 13 held Brazil passports, 7 held Vietnam passports, 3 held United Kingdom passports, 3 held Nigeria passports, 7 held Sri Lanka passports, 5 held Taiwan passports, 1 held Switzerland passport, 1 held Uzbekistan passport, and 1 held Denmark passport.
91. Between 16 October 2022 and 15 April 2023, 31 Bangladesh nationals were detained for illegally entering Rakhine State so as legal action is being taken against them under section 3 (1) and section 13 (1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provision) Act, 1947. Likewise, Myanmar authorities have also taken legal action under section 3 (2) and 13 (1) of the above mentioned Act against 119 Bengalis (87 male, 32 female) who illegally crossed the boundary and entered into Rakhine State from Bangladesh.

**IV. Conclusion**

92. Myanmar considers that the measures set out above confirm compliance with the Provisional Measures Order. The next report pursuant to paragraph 86(4) of the

Provisional Measures Order is due to be submitted by Myanmar on 23 November 2023.

93. I have the honour to certify that the documents contained in the following annexes are true copies and conform to the original documents, and that where such a document is accompanied by a translation into English, that translation is accurate.



**H.E. U Ko Ko Hlaing**  
**Union Minister for International Cooperation**  
**of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Agent of Myanmar**



## **Annex 1**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services,  
Statement on Ceasefire and Eternal Peace, The Global New Light of Myanmar, vol.IX,  
No.260, 1 January 2023, p.1 & 5



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office  
Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace**

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME  
31 December 2022

1. With the objective of attainment of perpetual peace across the nation, enhancing the peace process and more effectively carrying out the nation's Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment, Tatmadaw has over four years issued a total of 21 ceasefire statements between 21 December 2018 and 31 December 2022, and has stopped the military campaigns except for the time when the security and administration machinery of the government, as well as the national defence and security matters, are disturbed.

**SEE PAGE-5**

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office  
Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace**

10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME  
31 December 2022

**FROM PAGE-1**

2. It is one year and 11 months now Tatmadaw has taken over the responsibilities of the State in accord with the Constitution (2008). The State Administration Council, on its part, has formulated the Five-Point Roadmap for strengthening a genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building up a Union based on democracy and federalism, and the peace process is being constantly undertaken to be able to implement the fourth point of the roadmap, "the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) will be abided by as much as possible to ensure attainment of enduring peace across the nation".
3. The State Administration Council, on its part, has already celebrated, together with the entire indigenous races born within the Union on an elaborate scale, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Union Day, which is historically significant, thereby instilling the Union spirit in the entire indigenous races and revitalizing it for the perpetuity of the Union.
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Day and so, this day is historically significant and meaningful. It can be seen that the ethnic national people cannot yet fully enjoy the essential benefits of independence which has been re-attained for 75 whole years because of the internal armed conflicts caused by the differences of opinion. Only when the problem of internal armed conflicts can be resolved, can the benefits of democracy and independence be enjoyed to the full.
5. State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his part, delivered a speech on 22 April 2022 concerning peace to the ethnic armed organizations and the people; additionally, he invited the leaders of the ethnic armed organizations to hold honest and frank discussions in order that the peace process can be more effectively implemented in a practical manner. Till today, Tatmadaw has been able to meet two times with the seven groups which have signed the NCA viz DKBA, KNU-KNLA/PC, FNLO, NMSP, ALP, RCSS(SSA) and LDU and the three groups which have not signed the NCA yet viz UWSA, NDAA and SSPP (SSA), bringing the number of discussants to ten *in toto*.
6. During the discussions, matters relating to the pursuit of a genuine multiparty democratic system, the building up of the Union based on democracy and federalism, the demands made by the ethnic armed organizations and things that are essential to respective regions and the country and feasible to implement were discussed frankly for the benefit of the Union with the positive results achieved. The peace process is ongoing to effectuate the path to peace based on the 2008 Constitution and the NCA.
7. It is, therefore, declared that with the objective of continuing to implement the peace process in a practical manner and achieving the perpetual peace that the entire mass of the people aspire for, the military campaigns will remain to be suspended for one more year from 1 January to 31 December 2023 except the time when the national security and the State's administrative machinery are disturbed as well as matters concerning national defence and administration are adversely affected.
8. In ensuring the peace and prosperity of the Union which is the aspiration of the entire mass of the people and in the effectuation of the socioeconomic development as well as in attempting to reach the goal of durable peace, the discussion and negotiation approach shall be employed to conform to the democratic practices. All organizations and individuals involved in the peace process are enjoined to exert concerted efforts to their utmost and in a manner that will benefit the Union to be able to increasingly implement the peace process during the extended ceasefire period.

*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*



## **Annex 2**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Defence Services Rules, Rule 22



22. (1) Where the case is adjourned for the purpose of having the evidence reduced to writing, at the adjourned hearing the evidence of the witnesses who were present and gave evidence before the commanding officer, whether against or for the accused, and of any other person whose evidence appears to be relevant, shall be taken down in writing in the presence and hearing of the accused before the commanding officer or such officer as he directs.

(2) The accused may put in cross-examination such questions as he thinks fit to any witness, and the questions together with the answers thereto shall be added to the evidence recorded.

မပြုနိုင်တော့၊ တပပမျှတမှုပေးရမည်။

၂။ ။ (၁) သက်သေချက်ကိုရေးသားယူရန်ကိစ္စအတွက်၊ အမှုကိုရွှေ့ဆိုင်းလျှင်၊ သက်သေအကျဉ်းချုပ် ထိုသို့ရွှေ့ဆိုင်း၍ ကြားနာရာ၌၊ တရားခံနှင့် ဆန့်ကျင်ဘက်ဖြစ် ယူရန်အတွက်ကျင့်ထုံး။ စေ၊ တရားခံအတွက်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တပ်မှူးရှေ့တွင် လာရောက်၍ သက်သေခံသောသက်သေများ၏ သက်သေခံချက်အပြင်၊ သက်ဆိုင်ပုံ ဝေါ်သော အခြား သူတစ်ဦး၏ သက်သေခံချက်ကိုပါ တပ်မှူးရှေ့တွင်သော်၎င်း၊ တပ်မှူးက ညွှန်ကြားသည့် အရာရှိရှေ့တွင်သော်၎င်း၊ တရားခံ၏ရှေ့မှောက်၊ တရားခံကြားနိုင်သည့် နေရာ၌ ရေးသားယူရမည်။

(၂) ပြန်လှန်စစ်မေးရာတွင်၊ တရားခံသည်၊ မည်သည့် သက်သေအားမဆို၊ မိမိကသင့်တော်မည်ထင်သည့် မေးခွန်းများကို မေးမြန်းနိုင်သည်။ ထို့ပြင် ထိုမေးခွန်းများကို အဖြေများနှင့်အတူတကွ၊ ရေးမှတ်ပြီးသော သက်သေခံချက်တွင် ပြည့်စွက်ထည့်သွင်းရမည်။

(၃) သက်သေအသီးသီး၏ သက်သေခံချက်ကို၊ ဤနည်းဥပဒေတွင် ပြဋ္ဌာန်းထားသည့်အတိုင်း ရေးမှတ်ပြီးနောက်၊ ထိုသက်သေအား၊ ၎င်း၏သက်သေခံချက်ကို ဘတ်ပြုရမည့်ပြင်၊ ထိုသက်သေခံချက်မှန်ကန်ခြင်း အထိမ်းအမှတ်အဖြစ်၊ ထိုသက်သေခံချက်တွင်၊ ထိုသက်သေက လက်မှတ်ထိုးရမည်၊ သို့တည်းမဟုတ် ထိုသက်သေသည်၊ မိမိ၏အမည်ကို မရေးသားနိုင်လျှင်၊ ထိုသက်သေခံချက်တွင် အမှတ်အသားပြုခြင်းဖြင့် လက်မှတ်ထိုးရမည့်ပြင်၊ ထိုအမှတ်အသားပြုခြင်းကို အသိသက်သေပြုရမည်။ တရားခံနှင့် ဆန့်ကျင်ဘက်ဖြစ်သော သက်သေများ၏ သက်သေခံချက်အားလုံးကို ရေးမှတ်ပြီးနောက်၊ တရားခံအား “သင်တစ်စုံတရာပြောဆိုလိုပါသလား” ဟု မေးမြန်းရမည့်ပြင် “သင်ပြောဆိုလိုမှ ပြောဆိုနိုင်သည်၊ မပြောဆိုလိုက မပြောဘဲနေနိုင်သည်၊ သို့သော်လည်း သင်ပြောဆိုသမျှကို ရေးမှတ်ယူ၍၊ ၎င်းကိုသက်သေခံအဖြစ် တင်သွင်းလိုလျှင်လည်း တင်သွင်းမည်” ဟု တရားခံအား ပြောပြရမည်။ ထိုသို့မေးမြန်းပြောပြပြီးသည့်အခါ၊ တရားခံ၏ ပြောဆိုချက်ကို ရေးမှတ်ယူရမည့်ပြင်၊ တရားခံအားလည်း ဘတ်ပြုရမည်။ သို့သော်လည်း ထိုပြောဆိုချက်နှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍၊ တရားခံအားပြန်လှန်မစစ်မေးရ။ ထို့နောက် တရားခံသည်၊ မိမိ၏ သက်သေများ (အကျင့်စာရိတ္တကို ထောက်ခံမည့် မိမိပြုလိုသော သက်သေများ အပါအဝင်)ကို ခေါ်နိုင်သည်။

(၄) သက်သေများ၏သက်သေခံချက်နှင့် တရားခံ၏ပြောဆိုချက်ရှိခဲ့လျှင်၊ ထိုပြောဆိုချက်ကို၊ မြန်မာဘာသာဖြင့်သော်၎င်း၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်သော်၎င်း၊ ရေးမှတ်ရမည်။ သက်သေ၊ သို့တည်းမဟုတ် တရားခံ၊ သက်ဆိုင်ရာရာက မြန်မာဘာသာ ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ရေးမှတ်ထားသည့် သက်သေခံချက်ကို၊ သို့တည်းမဟုတ် ပြောဆိုချက်ကို၊ နားမလည်လျှင်၊ ရေးမှတ်သည့်အတိုင်း သက်သေခံချက်ကို သော်၎င်း၊ ပြောဆိုချက်ကိုသော်၎င်း၊ တရားခံနားလည်သော ဘာသာဖြင့်ပြန်ဆို၍၊ တရားခံအား ပြောပြရမည်။

(၅) တဦးတယောက်သောသူအား၊ သက်သေအဖြစ်လာရောက်ရန် အတင်းအကြပ်ပြုလုပ်၍မရလျှင်၊ သို့တည်းမဟုတ် စစ်ဘက်လတ်တလော လိုအပ်ခြင်းများကြောင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ အခြားမည်သည့်အကြောင်းများ(ကုန်ကျမည့်စရိတ်စကနှင့် ကုန်မည့်အချိန်အပါအဝင်)ကြောင့်မဆိုဖြစ်စေ၊ သက်သေတဦးဦးလွယ်ကူစွာ လာရောက်နိုင်မည်မဟုတ်ဟု သက်သေခံအကျဉ်းချုပ်ကို ရေးမှတ်ယူသည့် အရာရှိကထင်မြင်ယူဆလျှင်၊ (ထိုသို့ထင်မြင်ယူဆကြောင်းကို သက်သေခံအကျဉ်းချုပ်ရေးသည့် အရာရှိကရေးသားဖော်ပြရမည်)သက်သေကလက်မှတ်ရေးထိုးထားသည်ဟု သဘောသက်ရောက်သော ရေးသားထားသည့် သက်သေ၏ထွက်ဆိုချက်ကို တရားခံအားဘတ်ပြုနိုင်သည့်ပြင်၊ သက်သေခံအကျဉ်းချုပ်တွင် ထည့်သွင်းနိုင်သည်။

(၆) စစ်ဘက်ဥပဒေကို လိုက်နာရသူမဟုတ်သည့် သက်သေတဦးဦးအား၊ လာရောက်ရန်၊ တရားခံ၏တပ်မှူးက လက်မှတ်ရေးထိုးသော သမ္မာန်စာဖြင့် အမိန့်ထုတ်ဆင့်ခေါ်နိုင်သည်။ ထိုသမ္မာန်စာသည်၊ နောက်ဆက်တွဲ ၃ ပါ ပုံစံအတိုင်းဖြစ်ရမည်။

(3) The evidence of each witness after it has been recorded as provided in this rule, shall be read over to him, and shall be signed by him, or if he cannot write his name, shall be attested by his mark and witnessed as a token of the correctness of the evidence recorded. After all the evidence against the accused has been recorded, the accused will be asked : " Do you wish to make any statement? You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence." Any statement thereupon made by the accused shall be taken down and read over to him, but he will not be cross-examined upon it. The accused may then call his witnesses, including, if he so desires ,any witnesses as to character.

(4) The evidence of the witnesses and the statement(if any) of the accused shall be recorded in the Myanmar or the English language. If the witness or accused, as the case may be, does not understand the language in which the evidence or statement is recorded, the evidence or statement as recorded shall be interpreted to him in a language which he understands.

(5) If a person cannot be compelled to attend as a witness, or if owing to the exigencies of service or any other grounds(including the expense and loss of time involved), the attendance of any witness cannot in the opinion of the officer taking the summary (to be certified by him in writing), be readily procured, a written statement of his evidence purpoting to be signed by him may be read to the accused and included in the summary of evidence.

(6) Any witness who is not subject to military law may be summoned to attend by order under the hand of the commanding officer of the accused. The summons shall be in the form provided in Appendix III.



## **Annex 3**

Photos of International Humanitarian Law trainings



**Command and General Staff College**  
**Lecture on Geneva Conventions, ROE and International**  
**Humanitarian Law**



# Myanmar Army Combat Forces School (Bahtoo)

## Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention and ROE





## Defence Services Administration School (Pyin Oo Lwin)

### Recorded Photos of Lecture on International Law



## Defence Services Administration School (Hmawbi)

### Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention and ROE



### No (3) Basic Military Training Depot



### Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## No (4) Basic Military Training Depot



## Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## No (6) Basic Military Training Depot



## Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## No (7) Basic Military Training Depot



## Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## No (9) Basic Military Training Depot



## Recorded photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## **Infantry Support Weapons School**



## **Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention and ROE**



## No (11) Military Advance Training Depot



## Recorded Photos of Lecture on Geneva Convention



## **Annex 4**

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chairman's Statement of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits, Cambodia, on 11 November 2022





**A S E A N**  
CAMBODIA 2022

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> and 41<sup>ST</sup> ASEAN SUMMITS**  
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 11 November 2022**

1. We, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered for the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits on 11 November 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Summits were chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and convened in accordance with the ASEAN Charter.
2. We reiterated our support for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship and welcomed ASEAN's commendable efforts in achieving "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together", the theme of ASEAN for 2022. We were encouraged by the progress made in the realisation of ASEAN's priorities in 2022. We affirmed that ASEAN's unity and solidarity were strengthened, ASEAN Centrality consolidated, and ASEAN's active contribution to regional peace and stability duly recognised in accordance with ASEAN's values and principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. We also acknowledged the steady progress in ASEAN's economic integration and regional connectivity with the enhanced capacity of ASEAN to adapt to the changing regional and global dynamics. We commended active efforts to promote ASEAN awareness, identity and visibility. We were gratified by the achievements of ASEAN in contributing to the global cause for peace, stability and sustainable development. We welcomed and encouraged ASEAN's continued efforts in enhancing its institutional capacity and effectiveness to better respond to changing circumstances.
3. We reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining Southeast Asia as a region of peace, security, and stability and further strengthening peace-oriented values. We further reiterated the importance of maintaining an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, rules-based and inclusive. We supported the enhanced synergy among various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We

committed to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), including through our engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

4. We acknowledged the fast-changing strategic complexities coupled with the emergence of non-traditional security issues and the pending challenges to be highlighted. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to further strengthen collective efforts in enhancing ASEAN's resilience to navigate and effectively respond to emerging challenges, and further promote a comprehensive, robust and sustainable recovery, thereby, protecting the life and well-being of our people, sustaining ASEAN's inclusive growth towards a resilient future with a holistic and strategic approach to better shield our people against future spill-over impact and challenges.

## **ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING**

5. We emphasised our dedicated efforts to sustain the momentum of ASEAN Community-building, ensuring the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
6. We noted with satisfaction the progress in implementing the recommendations of Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. We commended the active efforts by ASEAN Member States and Sectoral Bodies across the three ASEAN Community pillars in ensuring the effective realisation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 in the face of global and regional challenges as they draw from the experience and lessons from the MTRs, and pursue implementation of its recommendations moving forward with the remaining goals for the successful delivery of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
7. We adopted the Recommendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness by the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) and agreed to task the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to follow-up on the recommendations. We also took note of the proposed Core Elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision that would enable ASEAN to be responsive and better adapt to a fast and dramatically changing world. In developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, we noted the need to balance pragmatism and ambition so that ASEAN remains stable and progressive while staying true to its identity.

8. We reiterated the importance of cross-pillar, cross-sectoral coordination in ASEAN Community-building and the significance of a holistic approach, coordinated response and coherent perspective in addressing the increasingly multi-dimensional character and complexities of issues facing ASEAN.
9. We commended the successful launch and implementation of the inaugural ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme with the ASEAN Secretariat (AJFP), which is aimed at increasing the knowledge and effectiveness of junior officials of ASEAN Member States in performing their work on regional cooperation through engagement with the ASEAN Secretariat. We looked forward to the continued organisation and development of this initiative as part of the larger ASEAN Community-building agenda, encouraging sustainability in our efforts to harness the potential of ASEAN's youth.
10. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security, and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
11. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Upholding Multilateralism and reaffirmed our belief that regionalism and multilateralism founded on the principles of the UN Charter and anchored in international law are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.
12. The ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), representatives of ASEAN youth and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on the sidelines of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits demonstrated ASEAN's concerted efforts to expand further engagement with other relevant stakeholders to continue contributing to the ASEAN Community-building process.

## **ASEAN 2022 KEY DELIVERABLES**

13. We adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together*, which underscores the spirit of "Togetherness" as one Community and the common will in our collective endeavour to address and overcome challenges facing our region. It also aims to encourage ASEAN Member States to uphold the spirit of

collective endeavour, affirm our common interests and join hands, in the spirit of ASEAN's guiding principles, in addressing major challenges facing the region in an effective and timely manner, to realise a harmonious ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable, and prosperous.

14. We emphasised that this year's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN is an important milestone that demonstrates what ASEAN has delivered in terms of economic prosperity, social advancement, and regional peace by working collectively in the past 55 years across the three ASEAN Community pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) to build an inclusive, peaceful, resilient, stable and prosperous region. We welcomed the efforts of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in having prepared activities to commemorate ASEAN's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including the physical celebration to mark this milestone at the ASEAN Secretariat on 8 August 2022. We are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN* which reaffirms our commitment to advance ASEAN Community-building efforts, highlighting the importance of upholding ASEAN Centrality as the primary driving force behind our substantive dialogue and cooperation with our external partners, particularly in the context of all ASEAN-led mechanisms in building an ASEAN Community.
15. We recognised the progress made in implementing the MPAC 2025, which supports the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthens resilience towards achieving a connected, sustainable and inclusive ASEAN Community. To this end, we adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda* which charts the future direction to enhance ASEAN Connectivity beyond 2025 while taking into account recent trends and developments as well as past lessons and experiences to ensure that ASEAN's efforts to enhance regional connectivity for the prosperity of its peoples are guided by a common vision that is cutting-edge, sustainable, practical and inclusive.
16. We were pleased to note the successful conduct of the ASCC and AEC Fact Finding Missions (FFMs) to Timor-Leste on 6-8 July 2022 and 19-21 July 2022 respectively, with participation from all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. We appreciated the finalisation and adoption of the assessment reports of the FFMs, we adopted *the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Application of Timor-Leste for ASEAN Membership* which agreed in principle to approve Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership and tasked the ACC to develop the

objective criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN. We reaffirmed our commitment together with our external partners to provide Timor-Leste with full, and other relevant necessary support to achieve the milestones for its full membership.

17. We acknowledged the indispensable role of youth in ASEAN Community-building, especially in COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts and other megatrends, as well as in setting the foundation of regional peace and security through ASEAN awareness, values and identity. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Year of ASEAN Youth to Strengthen the Role of Youth in ASEAN Community-Building* and commended the successful convening of the First ASEAN Youth Dialogue on 25-26 July 2022 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We recognised the recommendation of the first ASEAN Youth Dialogue to strengthen regional cooperation towards providing equitable access to education, skills development, opportunities, services, and infrastructures for communities living in remote areas and marginalised groups.
18. We recognised that culture and the arts have invaluable contributions to the social, economic, human and sustainable development of ASEAN, manifested through tangible and intangible cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, and heritage tourism. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the *Siem Reap Declaration on Promoting a Creative and Adaptive ASEAN Community to Support the Cultural and Creative Economy* to address cross-cutting issues that invoke the roles of culture and the arts in the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, through support for small and medium sized cultural and creative enterprises, digital adoption for culture and the arts, sustainable heritage tourism, and protection of intellectual property rights, as well as its potentials in contributing to a culture of education for all, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, disaster management, and combating climate change.
19. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting women's entrepreneurship and strengthening women's economic empowerment in building long-term resilience and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting the critical role of women as economic agents addresses long-standing gender inequalities which in turn contributes to inclusive economic growth and uplift the lives of women. It is in this regard, that we adopted the *Declaration on Building a More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN*.

20. We underscored the significant role of women in building and maintaining peace and stability in the region, and we are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security*. We view this framework as essential in mobilising concrete actions at the national and regional levels to cover the pillars of women, peace and security namely: protection, participation, prevention, and relief and recovery. We commend the leadership of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), together with all the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, in developing the regional plan of action. We looked forward to the implementation of the regional plan of action, including full support from other relevant stakeholders, including the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) and the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators (SEANWPNM).

#### **ASEAN'S KEY INITIATIVES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19**

21. Entering the third year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the overall pandemic situation in ASEAN has significantly improved. We commended ASEAN Member States for the progress made in the ASEAN Community-building process while focusing on recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing to ensure peace, safety and security for the people of ASEAN. We were pleased to note the region's gradual reopening and the transition from the pandemic to the endemic phase, demonstrated by the easing of travel restrictions and health protocol and relevant mandates. We took note of the progress made in terms of ASEAN's collective response to COVID-19, including the utilisation of the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to procure vaccines to cater to public health emergencies. We encouraged ASEAN Member States to contribute to and tap the earmarked contributions in the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS).
22. We commended the efforts made by ASEAN Member States in strengthening regional emergency preparedness, response and resilience and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan. We emphasised the importance of addressing and mitigating the impact of emerging challenges arising from the pandemic and the current geopolitical tension, such as on food security and energy resiliency, with a view to strengthening economic recovery and improving the resilience of the region. We appreciated the continued support from all stakeholders in the implementation of the ACRF and

emphasised the need for a whole-of-Community approach to ensure inclusive and sustained regional recovery efforts.

23. We commended the enhanced cooperation on Advancing the Achievements of ASEAN Health Development, which include enhanced cooperation initiatives on building regional health system resilience and accelerating COVID-19 recovery; optimising the mobilisation of essential health resources to respond to public health crises; promoting One Health Approach to prepare and respond to pandemics; strengthening health systems for sustainable universal health coverage; and, health security for resilient health systems. We looked forward to the sustained partnership and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and to the finalisation of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS). We also noted the need to follow-up on the EAS Statement on Mental Health Cooperation to encourage regional and international cooperation on mental health.

#### **INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI)**

24. We reiterated that narrowing the development gap and regional integration remain the key agenda in ASEAN Community-building. These efforts have been made through the implementation of the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plans, among other initiatives. We noted the active roles of the IAI Task Force, the CLMV National Coordinators and the Focal Points along with the active contribution and participation of the ASEAN-6, ASEAN external partners and other relevant stakeholders. We welcomed the good progress in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) to assist CLMV countries in achieving the ASEAN-wide target and in narrowing the development gap within ASEAN.

#### **ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

25. We underlined the importance of enhancing regional connectivity, especially in further supporting the region's recovery from the pandemic towards a sustainable and resilient future. We commended the work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), the Lead Implementing Bodies, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies as well as the MPAC 2025 National Coordinators and National Focal Points in advancing the implementation of MPAC 2025 and ASEAN Connectivity. We welcomed the finalisation of the Assessment of Future Sustainable Infrastructure Trends and Priorities in a Post-Pandemic ASEAN, the City Technical Proposals for eight cities, and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report. We looked forward to the finalisation of the

Framework on ASEAN Supply Chain Efficiency and Resilience and encouraged further efforts to promote people-to-people connectivity. To this end, we welcomed the commencement of joint efforts in supporting the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism through activities undertaken to lead the regional recovery.

26. We expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners and other external partners for their continued support to MPAC 2025 as well as the growing interests in developing stronger cooperation on connectivity. We reaffirmed our commitment to forge further collaboration and cooperation, including through enhancing synergies between relevant connectivity initiatives within and beyond ASEAN in line with the Connecting the Connectivities Initiative. In this regard, we commended the successful convening of the in-person 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on Enhancing Connectivity Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision and the ACCC Consultations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity.

#### **ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK**

27. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in advancing the implementation of Smart City Action Plans (SCAPs) and facilitating the development of the ASCN Online Portal and ASEAN Smart City Investment Toolkit towards exchanging knowledge, sharing experience, strengthening the partnerships, and bridging resource gaps. We welcomed the ASCN's decision to take an incremental approach to expand its membership by up to three cities per ASEAN Member State over the period of 2022-2025 to ensure quality engagement and optimal use of resources. We appreciated ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external partners for their support to the ASCN and looked forward to broadening and deepening our ASCN collaborations.

#### **FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

28. We are pleased with the progress ASEAN has made in advancing the region's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) goals and ambitions, particularly the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the 4IR for ASEAN (CS4IR). While we welcomed the recently established ASEAN 4IR Task Force Group under the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) to better coordinate and monitor ASEAN's 4IR endeavours moving forward, we also looked forward to the finalisation of the Implementation Plan of the CS4IR in December this year. We are confident that with both the institutional mechanisms and the Implementation Plan in place, ASEAN will be in a better place to address

and embrace the challenges and opportunities the 4IR phenomenon brings to our region.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN**

29. We expressed our great appreciation for H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi's valuable contribution, in his capacity as Secretary-General of ASEAN, in advancing the work of ASEAN during his five-year term of 2018-2022. We agreed to appoint H.E. Mr. Kao Kim Hourn as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN from Cambodia for the next five-year term of 2023-2027.

#### **ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY**

30. We reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct in governing inter-state relations in the region and as a foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability. We remain committed to further promoting the principles embodied in the TAC and emphasised the importance of all High Contracting Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. We also welcomed the growing interest of non-regional countries to accede to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC. We welcomed the accession to the TAC by the Kingdom of Denmark, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates in August 2022 as well as Ukraine in November 2022.
31. We reiterated our commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We welcomed the renewal of the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty for another five-year period (2023-2027). We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously engage the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and intensify the ongoing efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We encouraged our ASEAN experts to explore ways to bridge the differences, including the possibility of engaging with the NWS experts. We agreed to continue to submit the biennial SEANWFZ Resolution through the First Committee to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

32. We remained steadfast in our commitment to combat transnational crimes, particularly amidst the challenges and threats arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by strengthening cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation.
33. We commended the contribution of various ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, led by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), in implementing the Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017 – 2020 and welcomed the adoption of its Final Review Report. We also looked forward to the finalisation of the successor ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons ‘Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0’ 2022-2027 to continue comprehensive efforts in addressing TIP. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the National ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) Representatives and looked forward to enhanced monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the ACTIP as guided by the TOR.
34. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 to address radicalisation and violent extremism in the region in a holistic manner.
35. We noted the progress in ASEAN cybersecurity cooperation and reaffirmed our commitment in building an open, safe, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, peaceful, and resilient cyberspace. Noting the role cybersecurity plays in supporting the growth of the region’s digital economy and community, we welcomed the updated ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025. We also welcomed the development of the ASEAN Regional CERT, which will strengthen the region’s cybersecurity incident response and preparedness. We recognised the role of cybersecurity awareness activities and capacity building programmes of the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) in Singapore and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) in Bangkok in complementing existing ASEAN efforts in building regional cybersecurity posture.
36. We reiterated the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination to combat illicit drugs in the region and reaffirmed our commitment towards a drug-free region. We also remained steadfast in realising this commitment amidst global attempts to reschedule certain types of illicit drugs. We noted with appreciation the finalisation and

adoption of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 (ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025) and the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2020-2022 (ASEAN Cooperation Plan 2020-2022), which were led by Indonesia and Thailand respectively in 2021. We commended the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN NARCO) for its efforts to publish the next issue of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report (ADM) 2021, as a key trademark of ASEAN's cooperation in combating illicit drugs.

37. We commended the defence sector's commitment to addressing security issues of common concern while continuously contributing to our collective efforts in the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also looked forward to the defence sector's greater involvement in the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We further noted the progress of practical defence cooperation made under the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWG) for 2021-2024 in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, maritime security, counter-terrorism, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity.
38. We commended the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) and the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) on the work in the area of laws and legal matters to support the ASEAN Community-building agenda as well as its rules-based order and looked forward to the conclusion of the negotiation of an ASEAN Extradition Treaty.
39. We also welcomed the First Meeting of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (SOM-MLAT) and looked forward to the inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys General Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (AMAG-MLAT) in ensuring the effective implementation of the ASEAN MLAT which will further strengthen ASEAN Member States' capacity and resilience to combat transnational crimes.
40. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting tolerance, moderation and respect for diversity as well as to promoting and protecting human rights and respecting fundamental freedoms as they are core principles of ASEAN, and in this context, we underscored the importance of addressing effectively the challenges posed by violent extremism.

41. We noted with satisfaction the progress of work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. We encouraged AICHR to further continue its work in mainstreaming human rights across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community and in implementing its mandate to promote and protect human rights in a full and effective manner.
42. In commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), we encouraged further initiatives to advance human rights towards the building of a people-oriented ASEAN Community for progressive social development, justice, human dignity and a high quality of life for ASEAN peoples.
43. We welcomed the proposal from AICHR to hold the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue 2022 on 19 November 2022 as a regional platform for dialogue on human rights and sharing best practices and experiences in the promotion and protection of human rights among ASEAN Member States.
44. We congratulated the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its establishment. We welcomed the completion of the ASEAN-IPR Research – Aceh Case: Peacebuilding and Post-Tsunami Recovery. We noted ASEAN-IPR's activities with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and external partners to promote the culture of peace and moderation in ASEAN. We are encouraged by the ASEAN-IPR's effort to strengthen its research capacity and continue conducting various peace-oriented initiatives. We also encouraged all ASEAN Member States to contribute in supporting the operations of the Institute for each budget year, as agreed in the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-IPR. We also noted ASEAN-IPR's continued support for the AWPR to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in ASEAN. We encouraged ASEAN-IPR to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the AWPR and Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators, to further implement the Joint Statement.
45. We commended the role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) as a centre of excellence in promoting ASEAN's efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and raise awareness of the danger of ERW among affected communities. We reiterated the importance of mine action in national rehabilitation and sustainable development and welcomed efforts to promote mine action at the global level, including at the UN.

## ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

46. We were pleased to highlight that the ASEAN economy remains strong amidst global challenges and is projected to grow at 5.0% in 2022 following a significant upturn of 3.4% in 2021. We were encouraged that the nominal GDP has surpassed the pre-pandemic level and stood at USD 3.3 trillion in 2021. In 2021, ASEAN's total merchandise trade stood at USD 3.3 trillion, of which 21.3 per cent was intra-ASEAN, while ASEAN's total services trade reached USD743.0 billion, where intra-ASEAN trade contributed 11.7 per cent. On investment, foreign direct investments to ASEAN reached USD 174.1 billion in 2021 of which 12.0 per cent was intra-ASEAN. With strong macroeconomic fundamentals, we are ready and committed to working together to strengthen regional economic resilience in navigating global challenges arising from geopolitical tensions, soaring inflations and fiscal tightening.
47. We welcomed the successful delivery of the nine Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Cambodia's 2022 Chairmanship pursued to enhance digital connectivity, narrow development gap, promote an integrated, competitive and resilient ASEAN and strengthen global ASEAN for growth and development. We also noted the substantial progress made on the remaining deliverables and we looked forward to their timely completion.
48. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiations. We looked forward to an upgraded ATIGA that is comprehensive in scope covering not only traditional trade-in-goods elements but also emerging issues such as paperless trade, circular economy, and sustainable development, among others, and will ensure a modern, forward-looking ATIGA that is also more responsive to regional and global developments. We welcomed the exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) by eight (8) ASEAN Member States and encouraged the remaining ASEAN Member States to intensify efforts to join the live exchange of the ACDD within 2022. We also looked forward to Indonesia and Thailand to join the live exchange of the e-Phyto Certificates within 2022. We welcomed the adoption of the Joint Action Plan (JAP) on the ASEAN Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) and encouraged the ASEAN Member States to sign the AAMRA in 2022 to commence the pathfinder programme among ready ASEAN Member States in 2023. To continue ensuring the smooth flow of essential goods and prevent supply chain disruptions, we welcomed the agreement by all ASEAN Member States to

extend the lifespan of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of the Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to The Covid-19 Pandemic until November 2024.

49. We welcomed the conclusion and we looked forward to the signing of the Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons (MNP) that will put into effect the updated ASEAN Member States' Schedules of Commitments on MNP in a common format that is easier for stakeholders to understand and use. We noted the progress in developing an ASEAN Services Facilitation Framework (ASFF) to address the unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens in trade in services and reduce the cost of doing business in the services sector, and we looked forward to its conclusion by next year. We also noted the progress of discussions on the principles and modality for the transition of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) reservation list to a two-annex negative list, and we looked forward to the conclusion of the Fifth Protocol to Amend the ACIA to operationalise this transition by next year.
50. We commended the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting's (AFMGM) work on sustainable finance with the issuance of Version 1 of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance and the launch of the ASEAN Sustainability-Linked Bond Standards. These initiatives have contributed to the region's sustainability ambitions by setting up financial infrastructure guidelines that are inclusive, transparent, practical, and facilitative; and that facilitate the issuance of bonds with sustainability-linked goals that can encourage and support ASEAN companies to transition to sustainable business practices. We looked forward to the completion of the next version of the ASEAN Taxonomy by next year. We are also pleased with the launching of several bilateral cross-border QR code payment linkages under the ASEAN Payments Policy Framework for Cross-Border Real-Time Retail Payment Systems (RT-RPS) among ASEAN Member States and we looked forward to a more interconnected payments network across the region, furthering digitalisation and financial inclusion in ASEAN.
51. We are pleased with the adoption of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP), which is a collaborative initiative between the health sector and the economic pillar that will provide a basis, direction and a policy framework to ASEAN Member States and ASEAN National Regulatory Authorities in the development of harmonised strategies that facilitate the enhancement of national regulatory systems and market

integration initiatives. We looked forward to further advance the initiative with the adoption of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) and the development of APRF Agreement this year.

52. We underscored the critical role played by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in driving the development of the ASEAN economy. We acknowledged the ongoing efforts to bridge the skill gaps through upskilling and reskilling the workforce and improving market opportunities for ASEAN enterprises through the ASEAN SME Academy and the ASEAN Access. We noted the commencement of the work on developing digital business identities in ASEAN to enhance digital interoperability across the region. We underscored the need to provide equal opportunities and access to economic activities among ASEAN's communities and welcomed the finalisation of the Policy Toolkit on "Strengthening Women's Entrepreneurship in National MSME Policies and Action Plans".
53. We commended the ASEAN-BAC and Joint Business Councils (JBC) for their continuous support to ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery efforts. We encouraged the business councils to deepen their active contribution to regional efforts to enhance digital transformation and foster a greener and sustainable economic community.
54. We recognised the importance of maintaining competition policy and law to support ASEAN's Post-Pandemic Recovery Efforts and commended the ASEAN Heads of Competition Agencies (AHCA) in issuing a Joint Statement on Maintaining Competition Policy in Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery in line with the ACRF. The Joint Statement highlights several agreed steps among ASEAN Competition Agencies to strengthen competition in ASEAN, and to foster greater governmental engagement to create a more resilient ASEAN. We encouraged ASEAN Competition Agencies to continue strengthening their enforcement capabilities and merger review regimes to address post-pandemic competition issues including emerging issues relating to digital markets and MSMEs. We also encouraged ASEAN Member States to work towards greater cooperation in enforcing its competition laws and policies.
55. We welcomed the Launch of the Negotiations for an ASEAN Framework Agreement on Competition, which will provide a fair and competitive business environment in ASEAN. We commended the completion of the ASEAN Investigation Manual on Competition Policy and Law for the Digital Economy that will guide ASEAN Competition Agencies to collaborate in investigating anti-competitive practices in the digital economy. We also noted the progress of the development of the ASEAN

Guidelines for Sharing Merger Cases, which will serve as reference to develop the ASEAN Portal on Merger Cases in 2023.

56. We recognised the importance of ensuring enhanced awareness of emerging consumer protection issues. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Consumer Complaints Function that aims to enhance consumers' access to redress in ASEAN as well as the launch of the free Learning Management System (LMS) to enhance various stakeholders' knowledge on consumer issues. We also commended the completion of the ASEAN Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Guidelines; the ASEAN Sustainable Consumption Toolkit for Consumer Protection to enhance understanding on sustainable consumption policies and priorities; and the ASEAN Guidelines on Consumer Associations to advocate consumer movement in ASEAN.
57. We welcomed the positive progress in ASEAN patent cooperation, such as the completion of the ASEAN Quality Management System for Patent Processes, and the extension of the Pilot Program under the Patent Cooperation Treaty – ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation. We noted the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the ASEAN Common Guidelines on Industrial Design on the ASEAN IP Portal to support businesses seeking protection for Industrial Designs in the ASEAN region. We welcomed the completion of the Comparative Study on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expression (GRTKTCE) to enhance GRTKTCE development in ASEAN. We welcomed the completion of the Study on Best Practices for Intellectual Property Valuation in ASEAN. We welcomed the first ASEAN Economic Ministers' interface with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Director General on 15 September 2022 to deepen and widen cooperation between ASEAN and WIPO. We underscored the importance of Intellectual Property to drive innovation and creativity and noted the progress in the discussion to develop possible Guiding Principles to guide the negotiations of a new ASEAN Framework Agreement for Intellectual Property Cooperation (AFAIPC) that will be modern and comprehensive. The Framework Agreement would strengthen regional cooperation and engagement in intellectual property.
58. We underscored the increasingly pivotal role of digital technology in achieving an innovative, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth in the region. We commended the good progress in the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap: an ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economy Integration (BSBR) especially in the areas of paperless

trade, digital payment, consumer protection, and e-commerce. We strongly encouraged relevant sectoral bodies to timely deliver the initiatives and remain on track for the completion of the BSR initiatives. We also noted the acceleration of the study for the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) in 2023 with a view to commencing the negotiations for the DEFA as soon as possible. The DEFA is a crucial step for ASEAN to become the leading digital community and economic bloc, powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies, and ecosystem, as identified in the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025.

59. We recognised the importance of Circular Economy in contributing towards sustainable development in the region, and in achieving ASEAN Member States' commitments under the Paris Agreement. We underscored that implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC would be key in achieving carbon neutrality for the region. We welcomed the completion of the Work Programme to Support Implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community that will support socialisation and capacity building on circular economy in the region. We looked forward to the adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Framework for Circular Economy for AEC by the AEC Council. We are encouraged by the finalisation of the concept note for ASEAN Strategy on Carbon Neutrality. We looked forward to the adoption of the concept note by the AEC Council and the subsequent development of the strategy that will provide a systematic, orderly and inclusive pathway for ASEAN to become carbon neutral in the years to come.
60. We commended the strong commitment of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers to effectively address unprecedented challenges during the pandemic and to revitalise the ASEAN tourism industry through innovative solutions to enhance travel safety, hygiene standards and high-quality service in tourism products. We noted the progress of the implementation of the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism including the completion of the Comprehensive Study on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements for Tourism Professional (MRA-TP): Enhanced Mechanism for Tourism Professionals, and the ASEAN Framework on Sustainable Tourism in the Post-COVID-19 Era. We also acknowledged the endorsement of the Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for the Professionals and the Communities in the Tourism Industry as well as the New ASEAN Tourism Logo and Tagline "A Destination for Every Dream" with a focus on showing travellers the many beautiful experiences they could enjoy in each of the ASEAN Member States while highlighting the changes the region is making towards safe and responsible tourism. In this vein, we encouraged the ASEAN Tourism Ministers to pay special focus

on supporting tourism MSMEs and on promoting equal opportunities to enhance jobs for local communities as stated in the *Phnom Penh Declaration on Transforming ASEAN Tourism*.

61. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture to promote a sustainable and circular economy in the food and agriculture sector, and encourage ASEAN partners, international organisations, and relevant stakeholders to work with ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat to identify meaningful projects and programmes to support the practical implementation of the Guidelines. In this connection, we looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Statement calling to prevent and eventually eliminate the use of banned harmful agrochemicals in the region. We welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing-Related Information, which outlines the common information sharing principles to support the operation of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU fishing. We also commended the adoption of the ASEAN Strategy for Preventing Transmission of Zoonotic Diseases from Wildlife Trade, which aims to enhance the resilience of the region to the adverse impact of potential future pandemic through one health strategy on zoonotic diseases risk management link with wildlife trade. We also encouraged the promotion of farmers and farmers' organisations especially among women and the youth, as well as the establishment of networks between young farmers and researchers to exchange experiences, share research outcomes and promote practical application of sustainable and environmentally friendly digital technologies with a view to increasing productivity towards ensuring food security.
62. We welcomed the signing of ASEAN-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA) on 17 October 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. As the world's first bloc-to-bloc Air Transport Agreement, this would significantly strengthen air connectivity between ASEAN and Europe and enable greater business, trade, tourism and people-to-people links between the two regions as well as build a solid foundation for wider aviation cooperation. We were also pleased to note the adoption of the Guiding Principles for the Regulation of Application-based Mobility Services for Passenger Transport in ASEAN that will guide ASEAN Member States in developing a robust and appropriate regulatory framework to better manage mobility-as-a-service in the region. We also welcomed the adoption of the Implementation Framework on Enhancing Container Processing and Circulation in ASEAN Member States, including its Action Plan, which aims to provide practical strategies and measures to assist ASEAN Member States in enhancing container circulation for the

resilience of regional container shipping, maritime transport logistics and multimodal transport, which in turn, would bolster intra-ASEAN and international trade flows in the region.

63. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II 2021-2025 which frames the region's work towards energy transitions and resilience and aims to respond to both the impact of the pandemic and the long-term requirements of sustainable development. We welcomed the launch of two important energy outlooks by the ASEAN Energy Ministers in September 2022, namely: the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Energy Outlook and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Renewable Energy Outlook: Towards Regional Energy Transition, which complement the continuing implementation of the APAEC and outlines scenarios and potential pathways for achieving the region's energy agenda, monitor access and social impact, and assess options for accelerating the deployment of renewables, cleaner energy technologies and end-user electrification.
64. We recognised the strong outlook of the global minerals and metals demand up to 2050 and beyond, together with the opportunities for ASEAN to play an important role in the minerals value chain, including the emerging requirements of the global energy transition and digital age technologies. We welcomed the commitment of the ASEAN Ministers in charge of the minerals cooperation (AMMin) to gear the cooperation towards promoting the region as a minerals investment destination and looked forward to the successful implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 to develop the region's resource base in a sustainable manner.
65. We welcomed the progress made in implementing the "Global ASEAN" strategy being pursued through ASEAN's free trade and comprehensive economic partnership agreements. In particular, we welcomed the substantial conclusion of the upgrade negotiations for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Agreement Area (AANZFTA), which is a PED of Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. We noted the commencement and progress of the ASEAN-Canada FTA negotiations, and welcomed the commencement of the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). We recognised the importance of these agreements in contributing not only to stronger and more resilient supply chains but also to accelerating post-pandemic economic recovery. We therefore encouraged officials to ensure that these agreements are made modern, comprehensive, forward-looking and sufficiently pliant to withstand future adversities.

66. We expressed our appreciation to ASEAN's Dialogue and Development Partners for their continued support to ASEAN's Community-building efforts through the various economic cooperation and technical programs that they have established under the ASEAN Plus One FTAs. We welcomed, in particular, the economic cooperation activities being organised by ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to prepare ASEAN for the challenges and opportunities brought by the 4IR, including to enhance the capacity and readiness of ASEAN towards a digital economy and we underscored ASEAN's commitment to work closely with our partners to keep markets open and ensure the continued flows of trade and investment, supply chain connectivity, particularly for essential products, and for a strong and resilient post-COVID-19 economy.
67. We welcomed the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement on 1 January 2022 and looked forward to its full and effective implementation to contribute to economic recovery, inclusive development as well as our support for an open, inclusive, rules-based trade and investment arrangement. We acknowledged the significance of the RCEP Agreement in contributing to our region's economic recovery as well as its important role in the region's bouncing back faster, better and stronger amidst regional and global challenges.
68. We noted the achievements in accomplishing Cambodia's Priority Economic Deliverables for 2022, aided by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) which include: (i) the Work Programme to Support the Implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community; (ii) the Development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture; (iii) the Launch of ATIGA Upgrade Negotiations; (iv) the Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN in Post COVID-19 Era; (v) the Development of the Work Plan for the Implementation of the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED); and (vi) the Comprehensive Study on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements for Tourism Professional (MRA-TP): Enhanced Mechanism for Tourism Professionals.
69. We took note of Cambodia's idea to establish an ASEAN Green Deal with the aim to gradually transform the ASEAN region towards a green future, encourage sustainability, effective use of resources, resilience, and economic competitiveness.

## **ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

70. We reaffirmed our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We also encouraged the further advancement of sustainable cooperation in the region through existing ASEAN frameworks and centres including the ASEAN Centre on Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). We looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to continue this effective platform for exchange among the national development planning agencies in ASEAN Member States.
71. We noted the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work through ongoing data collection and funding activities; the ASEAN Labour Productivity Index and the continuation of data collection; and the launch of the Roadmap on the ASEAN Higher Space and its Implementation Plan. We also noted with satisfaction the progress of work of the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council (ATC) to meet the current and future skills needs of the region.
72. We noted the steady progress of the implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 and the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. We were also pleased to note the completion of the Study on Women Migrant Workers in the Laws and Policies of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Migration Outlook. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Labour Inspection Committee (ALICOM)'s Work Plan for 2022-2030 that will strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of labour inspection in the post-pandemic future of work. These progresses are concrete translations of the region's commitment for more inclusive, safe, and responsive labour markets. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines on HIV Counselling and Testing in the Workplace which will ensure workplaces are safe, healthy and non-discriminatory.
73. We commended the contribution of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to Cambodia's ASCC Chairmanship, in particular its support to the development of 13 priority ASCC deliverables. We also appreciated ERIA's assistance and support for research including on Learning Loss in Reading and Mathematics at Primary School Level during the Pandemic in Lower Mekong Countries, and workshops that contributed to ASEAN outcome documents under the ASCC, including the

***ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games in the Modern World and the ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community Building and Achieving the SDGs.***

74. We reiterated the importance of strengthening disaster management and humanitarian assistance and enhancing resilience to disasters by effective prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, and recovery in ASEAN through advancement in risk information and early warning systems, anticipatory action and policy, science, technology and innovation, business continuity planning, search and rescue, and emergency response. We commended the publication of the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management as well as the ASEAN Guidelines for Operationalising the ASEAN Regional Framework of Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster Management. We continued to support ASEAN's vision to be the global leader in disaster management.
75. We expressed grave concern for the continuing rise in global greenhouse gas emissions and the compounded socio-economic impacts of climate change. We reiterated our commitment to global climate action and adopted the ***ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-27)***. We further noted the progress of establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, and we welcomed the initiatives to seek complementarities within the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD), and their relevant deliverables to strengthen the region's resilience to disasters and climate change and support sustainable and green recovery.
76. We acknowledged that the well-being and prosperity of ASEAN is linked to the health and security of the oceans and seas and we reaffirmed our support to strengthening collective action to address the pressing transboundary ocean issues such as marine debris pollution. We noted with appreciation the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Member States as well as the opportunity for development of cooperation on other coastal and marine environment issues.
77. We recognised that transboundary haze pollution, arising from land and forest fires, remains a major concern in the region. We reiterated our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN

Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP). We welcomed the Final Review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020 and welcomed the commencement of the formulation of the next APMS. We also welcomed the Report of the Final Review and the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation which have helped the region track progress and sustain momentum in ensuring demonstrable improvements for a haze-free ASEAN. We expressed our appreciation for the valuable support from Partners in the ongoing implementation of projects in peatland and ecosystems management related to fire and haze mitigation. We stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and noted the ongoing preventive efforts to minimise any possible occurrence of transboundary smoke haze during periods of drier weather. We looked forward to the establishment and full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC) which will facilitate faster and effective implementation of all aspects of the AATHP to address transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.

78. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and looked forward to its successful implementation and collaboration with stakeholders. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2021-2025; the ASEAN-FIFA Collaboration Plan; and the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) on Cementing Strong Foundation for ASEAN Athletes at the Southeast Asian Games. We also welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the World Anti-Doping Agency to advance cooperation in anti-doping efforts. We noted with appreciation, the completion of the ASEAN Survey on Sports Participation 2021.
79. We acknowledged the socio-economic value of sports in improving physical and mental health, well-being, and leveraging the role of sports in ASEAN Community-building and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community-Building and Achieving the SDGs* and the *ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) in the Modern World*. We noted with appreciation the support of experts from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), UNESCO, and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the development of both Declarations, including the ongoing Research Study on the Preservation of TSG.

80. We commended the sustained momentum of the ASEAN Road Map on Implementing the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community in strengthening social work and the social service workforce. We noted the finalisation of the Regional Guidance on the Role of Social Work and Social Service Workforce in Strengthening Social Protection and A Regional Guide to the Development and Use of the Social Service Workforce to Population Ratios. We looked forward to the guidance of these regional frameworks on the delivery of quality social services and social protection assistance that reaches the most vulnerable sectors and leaves no one behind.
81. We appreciated the rollout of the Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN which will accelerate ASEAN's efforts to address the challenges of demographic change and ensure inclusive and sustainable development.
82. We acknowledged the adoption of the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that will provide the operational mechanism in reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025.
83. We reaffirmed our commitment to mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls across the ASEAN Community. We took note and were encouraged by the finalisation and launch of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework. We underscored the importance of this framework as a tool to facilitate and foster the growing number of initiatives.
84. We were pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development*, underscoring its importance as a whole-of-ASEAN approach to promote rural development, considering the changing scenario that shaped rural development in the region, promoting the linkages between regional actions with national programmes on rural development, as well as supporting a platform for meaningful and substantive engagements of farmers' organisations, rural peoples' organisations, civil society organisations, private sector, local authorities and other stakeholders engaged in promoting rural development.
85. We expressed support in addressing cultural losses arising from human-induced and natural disasters, conflicts, economic and health emergencies including the COVID-19 pandemic and illicit trafficking of cultural

properties. We encouraged strengthened cooperation through the continued implementation of the Strategic Plan for Culture and the Arts (2016-2025), stronger cross-sectoral and cross-pillar innovation and cooperation to revitalise the cultural and creative industries, and greater regional collaboration to protect, preserve and conserve our cultural heritage that is the foundation of our regional identity.

86. We recognised that the proliferation of fake news and misinformation as a result of rapid digital adoption in the region could lead to social discrimination and prejudice that would hamper the progress of ASEAN's Community-building. In this regard, we expressed our support to mitigate the harmful effects of fake news and misinformation through policy initiatives and activities including the establishment of the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News.
87. We reaffirmed the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN to support a more visible and enhanced role of ASEAN in supporting Myanmar by providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process, and promoting sustainable development in Rakhine State. We appreciated the work of the Ad Hoc Support Team of the ASEAN Secretariat (AHAST) and efforts of the Secretary-General of ASEAN in leading the implementation of the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA), and appreciated the contribution from ASEAN Member States and external partners in supporting ASEAN activities, such as the prioritised projects to facilitate the repatriation process and to promote inclusive and sustainable development in Rakhine State, including through providing basic services and creating livelihood opportunities for the displaced persons. We welcomed the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> High-Level Coordination Meeting, particularly the endorsement of projects to further advance the implementation of the recommendations of the PNA and emphasised the need for the completion of the conduct of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas for ASEAN to effectively facilitate the repatriation process.
88. We reaffirmed ASEAN's continued support to bring peace, stability, and the rule of law, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as promote sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State. We stressed the importance of and reiterated our continued support for Myanmar's commitment to ensure safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible and facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure, and dignified manner in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and

Bangladesh. We also welcomed the outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG). We looked forward and stood ready to support and facilitate the full implementation of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of Bangladesh signed in 2017 and the renewed MOU between the Government of Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which is valid until March 2023.

89. We acknowledged the imperative for schools to remain safely open for in-person learning as we move towards post-COVID-19 recovery, and recognised that education systems must be resilient to withstand future shocks, disruptions and crises, and education promises are back on track with the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, we noted the Reopen, Recover, and Resilience in Education: Guidelines for ASEAN Countries and looked forward to its utilisation by the ASEAN Member States.
90. We acknowledged that the care economy is important to ASEAN's resilience, and job creation, and may bring ASEAN closer to the SDGs. We welcomed the initiatives to advance the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy (ACFCE). We also expressed our steadfast support to strengthen social protection for women, children, the youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, and vulnerable and marginalised groups.
91. We noted the efforts to widen and deepen ASEAN cooperation on civil service matters through the utilisation of the Framework for Strategic Partnerships. Building and strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders are important in promoting good governance principles and agile civil service in this digital era.
92. We acknowledged the continuous and significant contribution of migrant workers to the region's economy. Therefore, we underscored the importance and reaffirmed our commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in the entire migration process as enshrined in the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

## **ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

93. We are pleased with the good progress in ASEAN's relations with our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, and Development Partners, regional and international organisations, and other external parties and

agreed to further enhance and strengthen our partnerships and cooperation through the existing frameworks, Plans of Action, Practical Cooperation Areas and development programmes based on mutual interest and benefit. We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in our engagement with ASEAN's external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One, APT, EAS, ARF, and ADMM-Plus, in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforce an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre.

94. We acknowledged with appreciation the contribution of these partnerships to our ASEAN Community-building and development cooperation efforts, including through increased technical assistance and official contribution to regional cooperation programmes and projects. We welcomed the support of our partners for the priorities of ASEAN in 2022 in addressing challenges together and advancing ASEAN Community-building. We agreed to further strengthen partnership and cooperation with our external partners, thus contributing to the continued efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and our proactive responses to emerging challenges. We looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Australia Summit, the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit, the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit, and the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United States (U.S.) Summit, the ASEAN-Canada Summit to Commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations and the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, to be held back-to-back with the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit to Commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations on 14 December 2022 in Brussels. We looked forward to the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations in 2023 and agreed to have both a regular Summit during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and a Commemorative Summit in 2023 in Tokyo. We welcomed the adoption of Annexes to the existing Plans of Actions to advance the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with Australia and China that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial. We also looked forward to the establishment of this partnership of the CSP with India and the U.S. at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit, respectively.
95. We took note of the growing interest from countries and regional organisations outside of the region in developing stronger collaboration and cooperation with ASEAN, including through applications for formal

partnerships with ASEAN. In this regard, we welcomed Brazil and the United Arab Emirates as new Sectoral Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. We also agreed on the need to pursue our outward-looking approach and reach out to new potential partners based on shared interest, constructive engagement, and mutual benefit, while noting the decision to conduct a comprehensive review of the moratorium on new dialogue partnerships, in conjunction with the work of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. We noted the role and contribution of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in actively engaging with ASEAN's partners, including through 96 Non-ASEAN Ambassadors Accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs). We also welcomed the role of the 55 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs) in promoting ASEAN's interest and forging partnerships in the respective host countries and international organisations.

96. We also highlighted the importance of and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening ASEAN's relations with other external partners as well as regional and international organisations, including the UN to address global concerns, to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperous development, to pursue shared goals and complementary initiatives, and to promote sustainable development for the benefit of our people. As part of the continuing efforts to further increase interactions and strengthen cooperation with the UN, we encouraged ASEAN Member States to present their candidate or candidature to various posts in UN's bodies and agencies.

### **ASEAN Plus Three**

97. We reaffirmed the importance of the APT cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the East Asian region, with ASEAN as the driving force. We underscored the need to further strengthen and deepen functional cooperation under the APT framework through the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 and looked forward to the continued implementation of the East Asia Vision Group II recommendations. In this connection, we welcomed the adoption of the successor ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027), which serves as a master plan in enhancing the APT process and cooperation over the next five years. We reaffirmed the role of APT cooperation in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and further underlined the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the region's recovery from the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic. We are committed to promoting APT cooperation in strengthening regional economic and financial resilience in the face of emerging challenges. With relevance to this, we welcomed the inaugural convening of the Directors-

General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + 3 Consultation held in Singapore and virtual format on 25 August 2022, which invigorated the enhanced relations between the APT countries on border management, immigration and consular affairs.

### **East Asia Summit**

98. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening the EAS as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia. We noted progress in the areas of cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action 2018-2022 and looked forward to the adoption of the successor EAS Plan of Action 2023-2027 to build on the existing Plans of Action and further enhance EAS cooperation over the next five years, including to facilitate a sustainable and comprehensive recovery of the region. We highlighted the need to strengthen EAS collaboration in response to emerging issues and challenges that affect peace, stability and prosperity in the region based on the principle of strengthening ASEAN Centrality. We noted the fruitful outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 5 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, on strengthening EAS coordination and collaboration in addressing the impact of COVID-19 and supporting regional recovery. We encouraged the enhanced role of the EAS Chair in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the EAS and other ASEAN-led mechanisms as well as in promoting coordination and exchange of information among the EAS participating countries inter-sessionally. We welcomed the continued discussions and efforts to strengthen the EAS, including through, among others, the regular engagement of the EAS Ambassadors' Meeting in Jakarta to discuss implementation of Leaders' decisions, as well as to exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives, and discussions on the evolving regional architecture and with the support of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat.

### **ASEAN Regional Forum**

99. We reiterated the importance of the ARF as a key platform for dialogue and consultation on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern and reaffirmed the need to further enhance its effectiveness and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture. We noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation in the ARF and commended the provisional measures undertaken to ensure continuity of cooperation and operations of the ARF in the post-COVID-19

recovery. We were encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025) and looked forward to further discussion on efforts and follow-up actions to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the ARF based on the agreed Guide to ARF Processes, Procedures, Practices and Protocol. We noted the implementation of the ARF Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, including the convening of the ARF Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security. We also looked forward to the implementation of the ARF Statement to Promote Peace, Stability, and Prosperity through Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, the ARF Statement on Reiterating Commitment to Preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, and the ARF Framework on Inclusive Processes for the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas in Confidence Building Measures, Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, which were adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> ARF in August 2022.

### **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**

100. We reaffirmed the importance of the AOIP as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. We recognised the importance of ASEAN-owned and ASEAN-led process in the implementation of AOIP. Towards that end, we adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the AOIP within ASEAN-led Mechanisms*, and we noted the Concept Note on ASEAN Roadmap for Promoting ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific to encourage external partners to support and undertake substantive, practical and tangible cooperation on the agreed areas of cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the principles contained in the AOIP, on the four identified key areas of cooperation. We called on ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to take steps and measures to strengthen coordination in the promotion and implementation of the principles and relevant priority areas of the AOIP, to develop cross-pillar and cross-sectoral synergies in ASEAN.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

101. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some ASEAN Member States on the land reclamations, activities, and serious incidents in the area, including damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue

peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of activities by claimants and all other states that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

102. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and China and were encouraged by the progress of the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, within a mutually-agreed timeline. We welcomed the resumption of physical textual negotiation of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) through the convening of the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC (JWG-DOC) in May 2022 in Siem Reap and in October 2022 in Phnom Penh respectively, and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. We stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence among parties, and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

103. We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and the increased tension in the Korean Peninsula are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. We urged all concerned parties to exercise utmost restraint, avoid actions and military reciprocations that may escalate the situation, resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all

relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties.

104. We expressed concern over the developments in the Middle East region. We reiterated the need for a comprehensive, just, and sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East region. We urged both sides to actively take positive steps to allow for negotiations to gain traction and work together towards the resumption of negotiations to achieve an enduring peace. We fully support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine with the realisation of two states, Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and security based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

105. We extensively discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed our concerns over the prolonged political crisis in the country, including the execution of four opposition activists and recent escalation of violence. We welcomed efforts to help address the situation including visits to Myanmar by Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in January 2022, and by H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar in March and late June to early July 2022. We were deeply disappointed by the little progress in and lack of commitment of the Nay Pyi Taw authorities to the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. We reiterated our commitment to peace and stability in the region and expressed ASEAN's readiness to assist Myanmar in a positive, peaceful, and constructive manner, including in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the people in need in Myanmar, without discrimination. We also welcomed the first visit of Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, to Myanmar in August 2022, and affirmed the important roles of the UN, ASEAN and its external partners in facilitating a peaceful solution in Myanmar. We endorsed the *ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus*. The third visit of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar will bring positive progress to the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, especially the

delivery of humanitarian assistance and widen the window of opportunity for political dialogue in Myanmar.

106. With regard to Ukraine, as for all nations, we continued to reaffirm our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We reiterated our call for compliance with international law and the UN Charter. We underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of an enabling environment for the peaceful resolution of conflict. We supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in the search for a peaceful solution. We also called for the facilitation of rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, and for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations.

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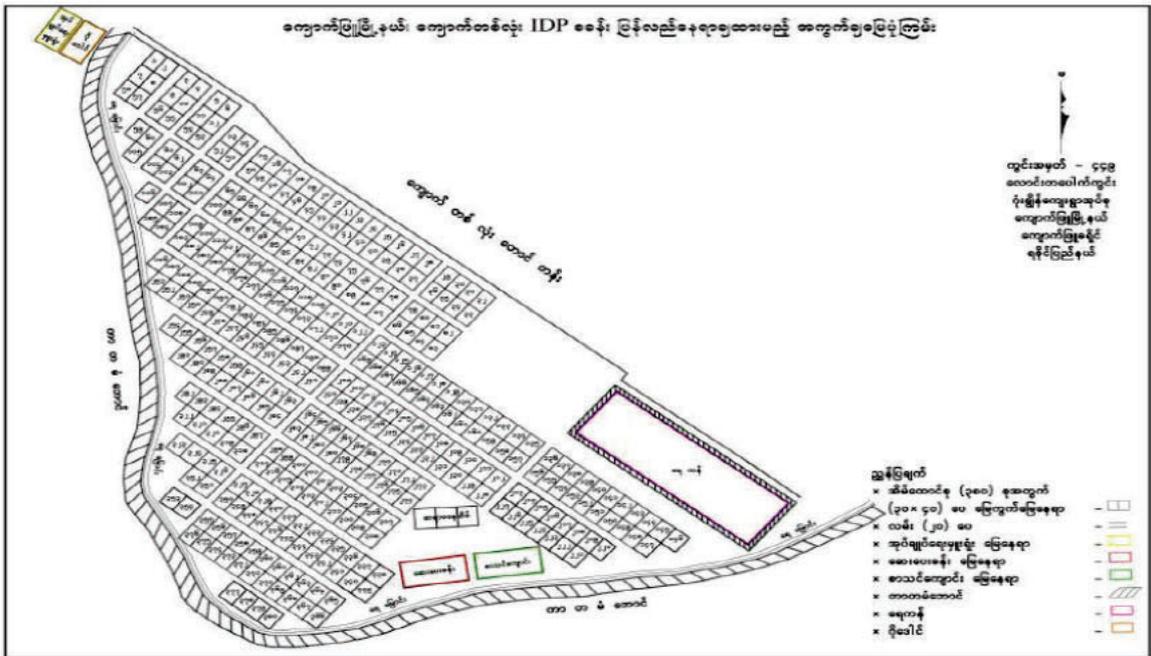
## **Annex 5**

Location, plot and infrastructure development of the relocation site of Kyauk Ta Lone Camp



# Location and plot of the relocation site of Kyauk Ta Lone Camp

ကျောက်ဖြူမြို့ကျောက်တစ်လုံး IDP စခန်းတွင်ရေဝပ်ဧရိယာ ၆ဧကခန့်၊ မှသောက်ရေကန်အဖြစ်အသုံးပြုနိုင်မည့်မြေဧရိယာ ၁ဧက နှင့် မြေဖို့မည့်ဧရိယာ ၅ဧကတို့၏ တည်နေရာပြမြေပုံ



## New Housing built at the site



## Housing for Government staff



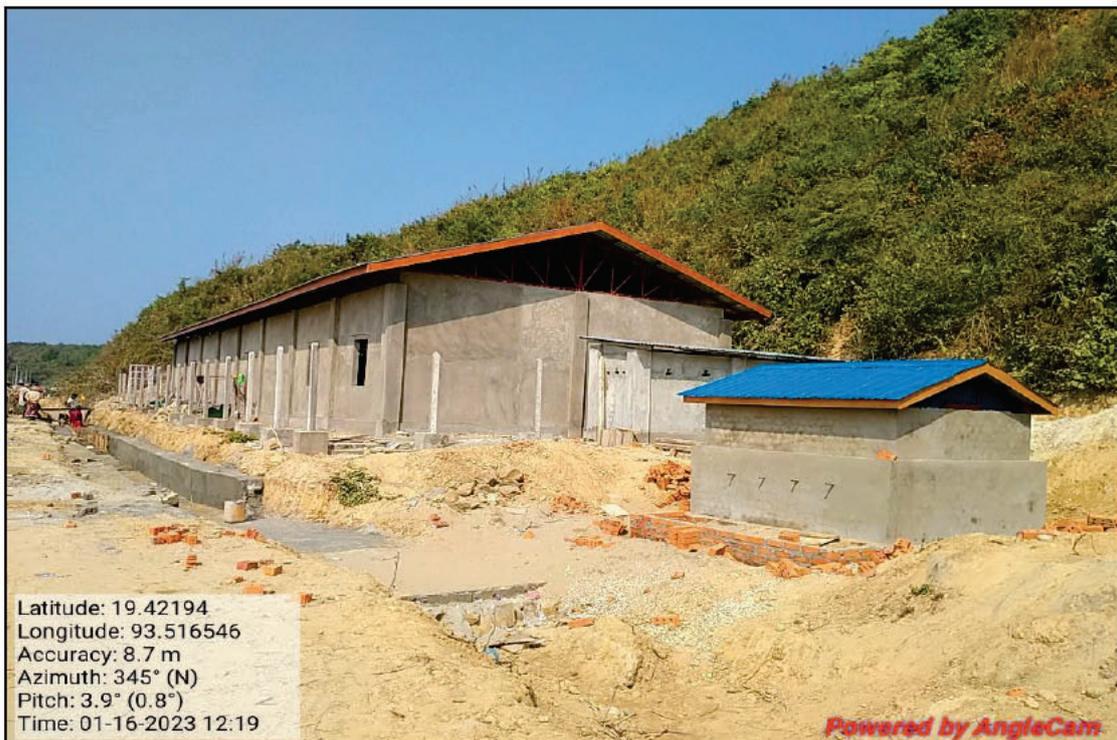
## Medical facility



# Drinking water facility



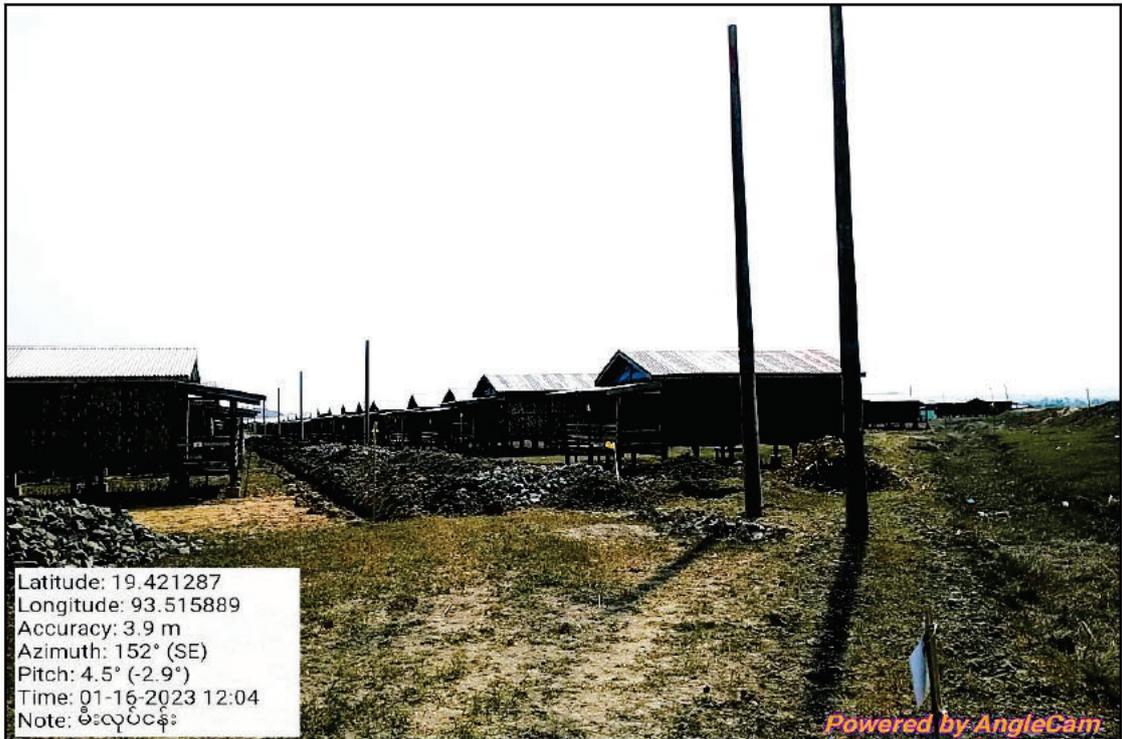
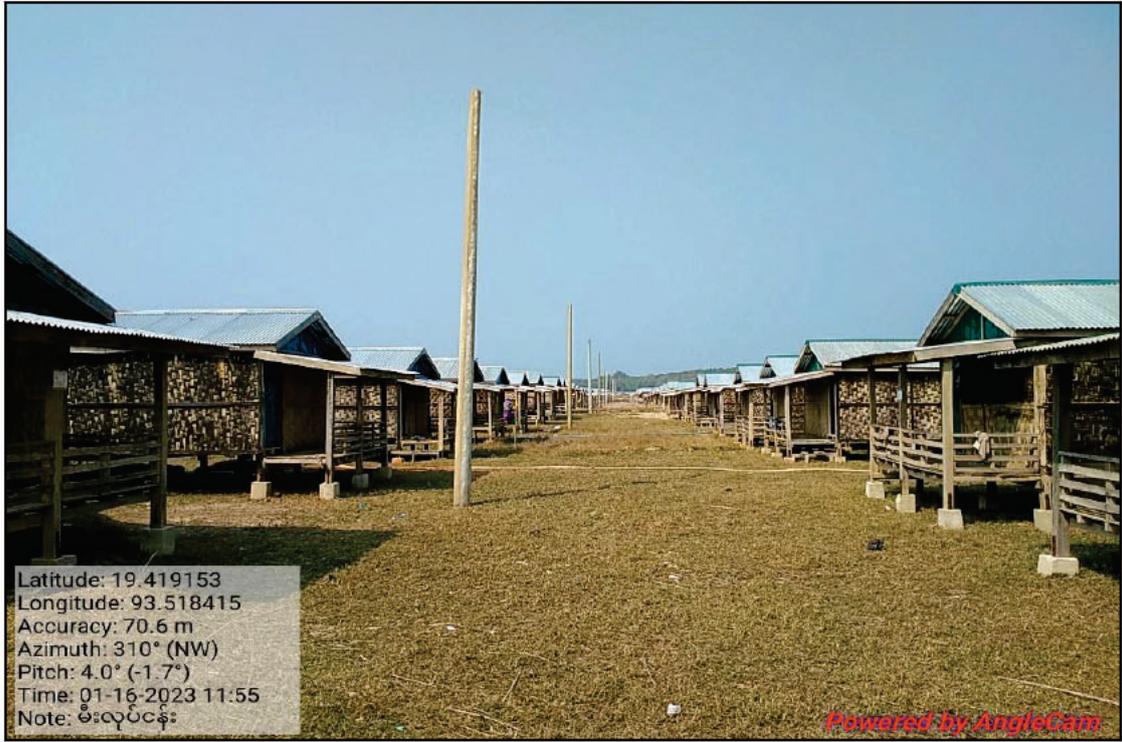
# Community Hall



# Latrines



# Electric Works



## **Annex 6**

Number of Bengali students (aged 5-12 years) receiving Covid-19 vaccinations in Rakhine State

**Number of Bengali students (aged 5-12 years) receiving Covid-19 vaccinations in Rakhine State**

No.	Township	Number of Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations	Remark
1.	Sittwe	23,060	
2.	Ponnagyun	10,317	
3.	Rathedaung	12,327	
4.	Pauktaw	19,452	
5.	Mrauk-U	20,602	
6.	Kyauktaw	30,861	
7.	Minbya	22,060	
8.	Myebon	18,370	
9.	Maungdaw	14,429	
10.	Buthidaung	20,834	
11.	Kyaukphyu	15,142	
12.	Ramree	8,576	
13.	Manaung	4,119	
14.	Ann	19,137	
15.	Thandwe	8,526	

16.	Toungup	16,660	
17.	Gwa	5,717	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>270,189</b>	



## **Annex 7**

Number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services and treatments at MOH Facilities in Rakhine State



**Number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services and treatments at MOH Facilities in Rakhine State**

No.	Township	Number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services and treatments at MOH Facilities in Rakhine State			
		Outpatient Department	Inpatient Department	Mobile Clinic	
1.	Sittwe	13,184	2,023	5,506	
2.	Pauktaw	9	1	8,720	
3.	Ponnagyun	56	-	39	
4.	Rathedaung	134	12	290	
5.	Kyauktaw	2,574	150	2,728	
6.	Mrauk-U	263	215	312	
7.	Minbya	103	231	981	
8.	Myebon	20	38	1,105	
9.	Kyaukphyu	85	40	71	
10.	Ramree	275	194	450	
11.	Thandwe	1,611	316	83	
12.	Gwa	4	2	-	
13.	Buthidaung	1,748	1,547	9,619	
14.	Maungdaw	5,589	1,559	3,475	
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,655</b>	<b>6,328</b>	<b>33,379</b>	



## **Annex 8**

Number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services and treatments at mobile clinics in IDP Camps, northern Rakhine State



**Number of Bengalis receiving healthcare services and treatments at mobile clinics in IDP Camps, northern Rakhine State**

No.	Township	Camp Name	Organizations	Number of Muslims receiving healthcare services and treatments at mobile clinics in IDP Camps
1.	Sittwe	Ba Sa Ra	Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS)/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	678
		Baw Du Pha (1) and (2)	Mercy Malaysia/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	4,973
		Dar Paing	Ministry of Health + Mercy Malaysia/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	7,910
		Gaung Dote Kar (1)	Mercy Malaysia/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	2,394
		Gaung Dote Kar (2)	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	2,208
		Maw Thi Nyar	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	832
		Ohn Taw Chay	Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS)/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	1,077
		Ohn Taw Gyi (N) and (S)	Mercy Malaysia/ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	7,474
		Say Thamar Gyi	Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS)+ Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)/ International Organization for Migration (IOM)	4,129
		Thea Chaung	Ministry of Health + International Rescue Committee	1,393

No.	Township	Camp Name	Organizations	Number of Muslims receiving healthcare services and treatments at mobile clinics in IDP Camps
			(IRC)	
		Thet Kay Pyin (Hospital and Sub-Rural Health Centre)	Ministry of Health + Mercy Malaysia	1,1831
2.	Pauk Taw	A Nouk Ye	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	2,053
		Kyein Ni Pyin	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	2,458
		Hngat Chaung (1) and (2)	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	2,659
		Sin That Maw	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	7,089
3.	Kyaukphyu	Kyauk Talone	Ministry of Health	105
4.	Myebon	Taung Paw	Ministry of Health	189
<b>Total</b>				<b>59,452</b>

## **Annex 9**

Photos showing Myanmar military medical corps from mobile medical treatments team providing medical treatments to Bengalis in Buthidaung Township



**Myanmar military medical corps from mobile medical treatments team providing medical treatments to Bengalis in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State (January 2023)**



**Myanmar military medical corps from mobile medical treatments team providing medical treatments to Bengalis in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State (February 2023)**



**Myanmar military medical corps from mobile medical treatments team providing medical treatments to Bengalis in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State (February 2023)**



**Myanmar military medical corps from mobile medical treatments team providing medical treatments to Bengalis in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State**



## **Annex 10**

Photos showing Bengali pregnant women and children receiving healthcare services and medical treatments by the Ministry of Health and medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services



Photos showing Bengali pregnant women and children receiving healthcare services and medical treatments by the Ministry of Health and medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services



Photo 1: A nurse from Ministry of Health providing healthcare services to Bengali pregnant woman



Photo 2: A Bengali woman receiving healthcare services by the Ministry of Health



Photo 3: A nurse from the Ministry of Health providing medicines and vitamins amongst Bengali children



Photo 4: A nurse from the Ministry of Health providing medical treatments to Bengali children



Photo 5: A nurse from Ministry of Health providing healthcare services to Bengali pregnant woman



Photo 6: A medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services providing healthcare services to Bengali pregnant woman



Photo 7: A medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services providing healthcare services to a Bengali child



Photo 8: A nurse providing medical treatments and healthcare services to a Bengali infant



# **Annex 11**

List of people receiving Covid-19 vaccinations and Booster doses in 17 townships of Rakhine State



**List of people receiving Covid-19 vaccinations and Booster doses in 17 townships of Rakhine State**

No.	Township	Number of people receiving Covid-19 vaccinations					
		16 Oct 2022 – 15 Jan 2023			16 Jan 2023-15-4-2023		
		First Dose	Second Dose	Booster Dose	First Dose	Second Dose	Booster Dose
1.	Sittwe	4,482	656	9,431	1,599	2,685	3,077
2.	Ponnagyun	64	33	1,062	92	31	933
3.	Rathedaung	-	142	895	-	-	1,520
4.	Pauktaw	-	4,800	6,310	-	-	759
5.	Mrauk-U	-	6,245	3,367	-	-	741
6.	Kyauktaw	-	339	2,707	-	-	2,356
7.	Minbya	1,085	1,770	12,920	-	-	3,085
8.	Myepon	-	-	5,255	-	-	293
9.	Maungdaw	580	704	3,377	67	11	640
10.	Buthidaung	6	525	14,346	-	415	450
11.	Kyaukphyu	85	40	6,965	-	-	1,423
12.	Ramree	-	1,483	6,337	-	-	1,998
13.	Ann	-	-	6,769	16	54	590
14.	Thandwe	222	387	4,360	-	-	720
15.	Gwa	124	181	4,711	806	94	1,374
16.	Toungup	224	69	4,448	-	-	84
17.	Manaung	-	-	3,999	-	46	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,872</b>	<b>17,374</b>	<b>97,259</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>20,043</b>



## **Annex 12**

List of people receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in IDP camps in Rakhine State (16 Oct 2022 to 15 April 2023)



**List of IDPs receiving Covid-19 vaccinations and Booster doses at fixed posts of townships in Rakhine State (From 16 October 2022 to 15 April 2023)**

No.	Township	Number of IDPs who completed vaccination cycle	Number of IDPs who received Booster Dose	Remark
1.	Sittwe	15	1,023	
2.	Buthidaung	21	1,902	
3.	Ponnagyun	23	682	
4.	Rathedaung	21	2,592	
5.	Mrauk-U	45	2,628	
6.	Kyauktaw	25	2,589	
7.	Myebron	27	623	
8.	Ann	35	523	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>12,562</b>	



## **Annex 13**

List and photos of Bengalis receiving Covid-19 vaccinations in IDP Camps



**List of Bengalis receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in IDP camps in Rakhine State  
(16 Oct 2022 to 15 April 2023)**

No.	Township	Camp Name	Number of people receiving Covid-19 Vaccinations in IDP Camps		
			First Dose	Second Dose	Booster Dose
1.	Sittwe	Ba Sa Ra	-	-	-
		Baw Du Pha (1) and (2)	-	-	856
		Dar Paing	708	510	859
		Gaung Dote Kar (1)	-	-	-
		Gaung Dote Kar (2)	-	-	-
		Maw Thi Nyar	-	-	-
		Ohn Taw Gyi (1)	-	-	2,354
		Ohn Taw Gyi (2)	-	-	1,023
		Say Thamar Gyi	-	-	798
		Thea Chaung	-	-	-
2.	Pauk Taw	Thet Kay Pyin	1,442	917	992
		A Nouk Ye			378
		Kyein Ni Pyin			932
		Hingat Chaung (1) and (2)			2,365
		Sin That Maw			398
3.	Kyaukphyu	Kyauk Talone			11
		Taung Paw		17	1,323
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>12,289</b>

Photographs of Bengali civilians in IDP Camps receiving inoculations



Photo 1: A Bengali woman receiving Covid-19 inoculation by the Ministry of Health



Photo 2: A Bengali man receiving Covid-19 inoculation by the Ministry of Health



Photo 3: A Bengali woman receiving Covid-19 inoculation by the Ministry of Health



## **Annex 14**

Photos showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations



**Photos showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations**



**Photo 1: A photo showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations by medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services**



**Photo 2: A photo showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations by medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services**



**Photo 3: A photo showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations by medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services**



**Photo 4: A photo showing Bengali students receiving Covid-19 vaccinations by medical corps from Myanmar Defence Services**

