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Report of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar*

Summary

The present document is the eighth report submitted by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 39/2 of 27 September 2018. It covers the activities carried out by the Mechanism between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, highlighting progress made in the investigations and accountability processes facilitated by the Mechanism, challenges it has encountered and areas requiring additional support.

Over the past year, the Mechanism's investigations showed that the frequency and intensity of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Myanmar military and by various armed groups continued to escalate.

The Mechanism advanced its investigations into crimes committed since the February 2021 military coup, including indiscriminate and intentional aerial attacks against civilians which led to the identification of some of the military units responsible and of their respective command structures; killings of detained civilians and combatants; sexual and gender-based crimes committed by both the Myanmar military and non-State armed groups; and unlawful detention and imprisonment, including physical and sexualized torture, committed by Myanmar security forces in specific detention facilities.

The conflict in Rakhine State intensified significantly during the reporting period, and the Mechanism investigated crimes such as arbitrary detention, torture, forced displacement and restrictions on humanitarian assistance committed against Rohingya, Rakhine and other communities by all perpetrators, including members of the Arakan Army.

The Mechanism's investigations into the 2016 and 2017 clearance operations against the Rohingya also continued to progress. The Mechanism focused on identifying previously undocumented attacks, examining the structure and role of the armed groups and engaging with former military personnel possessing critical insider information.

* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



The Mechanism made significant contributions to the proceedings in *The Gambia v. Myanmar* before the International Court of Justice by providing extensive evidence and analysis to the parties, which were widely referenced during the public hearings held in January 2026. It also shared thousands of items of evidentiary and analytical information with the International Criminal Court, the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Argentina and other national jurisdictions.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the activities carried out by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.
2. In September 2018, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 39/2, created the Mechanism with the mandate to collect evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011. In its resolution 73/264, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment of the Mechanism. The Mechanism's terms of reference instruct it to preserve and analyse the evidence collected in order to facilitate fair and independent criminal proceedings in national or international courts against those individuals most responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other serious violations of international law.
3. During the reporting period, atrocities continued to be committed against the civilian population of Myanmar, as the conflicts between the military regime and various armed groups showed no signs of abating. The evidence collected by the Mechanism indicates that war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed with increasing frequency and intensity by multiple parties. In all cases, the Mechanism is working to identify those most responsible regardless of their political affiliation, religion, beliefs or ethnicity. In the more than five years since the February 2021 military coup, atrocities have remained widespread across Myanmar amid escalating armed conflicts, persistent attacks against civilians, frequent aerial bombardments and worsening humanitarian conditions. This severe violence and instability persisted during the military-managed elections in December 2025 and January 2026.
4. The reporting period was also marked by a significant increase in the Mechanism's support to accountability processes and criminal investigations of crimes within the Mechanism's mandate. The number of authorities with whom the Mechanism shares evidence and analysis has expanded, and now includes parties to the proceedings before the International Court of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Argentina and authorities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, the Mechanism initiated confidential sharing activities with several other national jurisdictions concerning potential domestic investigations. The evidence shared by the Mechanism relates to crimes committed throughout Myanmar against many different ethnic groups and includes evidence related to crimes committed in the clearance operations in Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017 and crimes committed since the 2021 military coup related to the ongoing civil war.
5. The reporting period also saw important developments in the proceedings before the International Court of Justice in *The Gambia v. Myanmar*, which concerns alleged breaches of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In January 2026, the Court held public hearings, during which both parties referred extensively to materials provided by the Mechanism, including witness statements, analytical reports, screening notes and geospatial evidence. The landmark hearings represented a significant moment in the pursuit of justice and accountability for the people of Myanmar, as victims were able to participate in the proceedings, to testify before the court and to have their voices heard. The case is of profound importance not only for the Rohingya and the people of Myanmar but for the international community as a whole. Its outcome is expected to have important implications for the implementation and interpretation of the Genocide Convention, including how genocide can be proven and the scope of the obligations of Parties to the Convention to prevent and punish the crime.

II. Progress on investigations and on facilitating proceedings

6. Since becoming operational in 2019, the Mechanism has maintained a structure of two investigative teams. One team has concentrated on crimes committed against the civilian population in the many conflicts against various ethnic minorities around the country and on violence related to the military coup of 2021. A second team has concentrated on crimes committed against the Rohingya, including crimes related to the 2017 clearance operations

that led to close to three quarters of a million Rohingya fleeing their country to shelter in refugee camps in Bangladesh. Since the 2021 military coup against the elected Government, the number of such crimes has increased massively. Tens of thousands have been arbitrarily detained and many tortured, thousands of civilians have been killed in aerial attacks, and thousands of civilians and soldiers hors de combat have been executed or subjected to sexual violence or other serious crimes at the hands of the Myanmar military or non-State armed groups in the country.

7. A financial investigations unit and an open source investigation unit support both teams' lines of inquiry. These lawyers, investigators and analysts provide critical expertise that is integral to the Mechanism's investigations and contributes to identifying pathways to accountability.

8. To date, the Mechanism has collected and processed more than 28 million items of information and evidence from over 1,600 sources and information providers, including more than 91,100 items during the reporting period.

9. The Mechanism's approach to evidence collection integrates traditional, proven criminal investigative techniques with modern technologies. The Mechanism has collected and preserved a wide range of evidence, including witness statements, photographs and video footage, social media content, open source information, geospatial data, forensic material and financial records. Investigative teams systematically collect, verify and analyse such evidence using survivor/victim-centred, gender-sensitive and trauma-informed methodologies. Notably, the Mechanism places great importance on the collection of first-hand witness testimony, through in-person interviews. To date, the Mechanism has obtained 756 witness statements and screening notes from victims and witnesses. In addition, the Mechanism has prepared 644 investigation notes documenting information collected from various sources and leads. The Mechanism has analysed these items to determine their relevance and probative value in proving the underlying and contextual elements of serious international crimes and establishing their links to individual perpetrators through various modes of criminal responsibility including direct perpetration, command responsibility and other forms of criminal liability.

A. Investigating crimes committed after the military coup

10. The investigations into crimes committed after the military coup in February 2021 encompass crimes related to the ongoing armed conflicts in Myanmar, as well as crimes linked to the widespread arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians following the coup. In connection with these two lines of inquiry, the Mechanism has continued to investigate indiscriminate aerial attacks; civilian casualties resulting from artillery and drone attacks; and the burning and destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, places of worship, and commercial areas, including markets.

11. The Mechanism is using evidence collected in the course of its various investigations on post-coup crimes to produce analysis on: (a) specific priority incidents and locations; (b) the chain of command within specific components of the Myanmar military and security forces; (c) thematic priorities, such as indiscriminate or intentional aerial and artillery attacks against civilians and civilian objects, as well as sexual and gender-based crimes; and (d) contextual elements of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Myanmar. These analytical reports will be made available, as appropriate, to jurisdictions that have opened or may open investigations in relation to serious international crimes committed on the territory of Myanmar.

Crimes related to ongoing armed conflicts in Myanmar

12. During the reporting period, the Mechanism continued to investigate serious international crimes connected to the ongoing armed conflicts in Myanmar, including in Chin, Kachin, Kayah (Karenni), Kayin, Rakhine and Shan States and in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Regions.

(a) *Indiscriminate or intentional aerial attacks against civilians and civilian objects*

13. The Mechanism has collected and analysed large volumes of evidence documenting widespread indiscriminate aerial attacks across the country committed by the Myanmar military. The Myanmar military has become increasingly reliant on aerial operations, and the number and frequency of such attacks impacting civilians and civilian objects have continued to increase. The Mechanism's investigations reveal a pattern of aerial attacks deliberately targeting civilian objects, including villages, schools, religious and cultural buildings, camps for internally displaced persons, and medical facilities. Many of these attacks hit civilian structures in areas with no targets of military value. The Mechanism observed a notable escalation in aerial attacks in the months preceding the elections organized by the Myanmar military authorities, which commenced on 28 December 2025. The Mechanism is in the process of producing a comprehensive analytical report highlighting several aerial attacks committed by the Myanmar military, and the individuals involved in ordering and carrying out these attacks.

14. The Mechanism has prioritized for investigation several aerial attacks on villages, including in Chin, Kachin and Kayah States and in Sagaing Region; on schools in Sagaing Region and in Chin and Rakhine States; and on hospitals in Chin and Rakhine States. The Mechanism has prioritized the investigation of a series of aerial attacks on a camp for internally displaced persons in Pekon Township, Kayah State, where it has identified the perpetrators involved in the planning, coordination and execution of the aerial attacks as well as their chain of command.

15. Additionally, the Mechanism has identified some of the perpetrator units responsible for the aerial attacks, and the airbases from which they operate across several regions in the country. The Mechanism is collecting and analysing evidence concerning the command structure of the Myanmar Air Force, its respective areas of operation, locations of its facilities and aircraft, and the commanders of the different units during the periods relevant to the aerial attacks under investigation.

16. The evidence collected demonstrates coordination between different airbases. For example, aircraft from Magway and Tada-U Air Force Bases are responsible for aerial attacks in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin and Kayin (Karen) States and in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions. Additionally, the evidence shows that aircraft from Taungoo Air Force Base Headquarters in Bago and from Nay Pyi Taw Air Force Base are responsible for aerial attacks in Kayah State.

17. In addition to the use of conventional aircraft, the Mechanism has collected evidence of the Myanmar military's increasing operational reliance on non-conventional aircraft, such as paramotors (motorized paragliders), gyrocopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones. These low-cost platforms have allowed the military to conduct low-altitude air strikes where pilots drop unguided explosive munitions, including mortar shells. The Mechanism has opened investigations on several recent incidents in Sagaing where paramotor pilots deliberately cut their engines as they approached their targets, allowing them to glide silently and avoid detection. This practice provides no warning to those on the ground and significantly reduces opportunities for civilians to flee or seek shelter.

18. Furthermore, since 2021, the Mechanism has noted a steady increase in aerial attacks on villages with religious minorities and in the destruction of religious sites. There have been over 600 aerial attacks against a variety of religious buildings across the country, often damaging or destroying more than one religious structure in each incident. These attacks were often part of a larger attack that resulted in the wider destruction of villages and in deaths and injuries to civilians. The Mechanism is examining a number of such incidents in Chin, Kachin and Kayah (Karen) States and Sagaing Region.

19. In addition, the Mechanism is examining allegations of aerial attacks aimed at economic targets, such as mining infrastructure, markets and trading sites. The evidence suggests that the majority of these air strikes on economic targets were carried out in areas where no apparent military objective existed in the vicinity, and that they resulted in widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and in significant civilian casualties, particularly among women and children.

20. The Mechanism's investigations also indicate that civilian casualties are further exacerbated by the Myanmar military's increasing use of so-called "double tap" aerial attacks. This is a tactic whereby the Myanmar military conducts an initial attack, followed up shortly thereafter with further aerial attacks, seemingly in an effort to target first responders and individuals attempting to help the wounded or those attempting to flee to safety. The Mechanism is prioritizing the examination of such incidents in Chin and Kachin States and in Sagaing Region.

(b) *Killing of detained civilians and combatants during military operations*

21. The Mechanism is also examining allegations of aerial attacks targeting detainees and persons hors de combat. During the reporting period, the Myanmar military carried out an increasing number of aerial attacks against detention facilities under the control of various non-State armed groups, notably in Rakhine, Kayah (Karenni) and Chin States and in Mandalay Region. The Mechanism is following up on credible sources that have reported that these attacks resulted in the deaths of Myanmar military personnel, their family members, including women and children, and civilian prisoners who were being held in the detention facilities. In one such incident, those killed included local residents detained on suspicion of being military informants, prison authorities, and medical staff of the non-State armed group in charge of the facility.

22. Additionally, the Mechanism is reviewing evidence of raids conducted by the Myanmar military on villages affected by ongoing hostilities, particularly in the Sagaing and Magway Regions. The evidence indicates that during such raids, the Myanmar military detained and subsequently tortured and killed civilians. During an early morning raid in Wunthot Township in Sagaing, a military column is alleged to have arrested a group of villagers, who were later found dead with stab and gunshot wounds. In another early morning raid in a village in Gangaw District, Magway Region, it is alleged that the military detained villagers in a house and shot them dead.

(c) *Sexual and gender-based crimes by the military and non-State armed groups*

23. In Myanmar, as in many other countries, survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes typically face many challenges to reporting such crimes, including cultural and social stigma that deters survivors from reporting, and the lack of adequate psychosocial support services. However, despite the challenges, the Mechanism has collected credible evidence of such crimes against civilians of different ages and genders related to the ongoing armed conflicts in Myanmar. Much of this evidence relates to allegations of sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault, committed by members of the Myanmar military during operations. The Mechanism is examining evidence of sexual violence during arrest operations in Yangon and in the context of attacks in the lead-up to the military-managed elections in areas under the control of the Myanmar military, including the Mandalay Region.

24. The Mechanism is also examining allegations of sexual and gender-based crimes committed by non-State armed groups cooperating with the Myanmar military. During an early morning raid in Kanbalu Township in Sagaing Region in 2025, members of the Myanmar military and of a non-State armed group entered the villages of Thapye Thar and Kyaung Kone, where they reportedly arrested over a hundred villagers. During this raid, it is reported that a woman was drugged and gang-raped by members of the non-State armed group.

25. The Mechanism is also investigating reports of rape and sexual assault committed by members of the People's Defence Forces and other non-State armed groups in different parts of Myanmar against members of their own factions where these crimes appear to be related to the armed conflict. The Mechanism has sought further information on these allegations from the non-State armed groups allegedly involved.

Crimes related to unlawful detention and imprisonment

26. Credible information indicates that approximately 30,870 people have been arrested by the Myanmar security forces since the military coup in February 2021, of whom approximately 22,130 remained imprisoned as at April 2026. The majority of these arrests

were arbitrary, as arrest warrants were not shown to the individuals being arrested, nor were they provided with any legal justification for the offences they were suspected of having committed. The number of arrested people includes 639 minors. In some cases, children were detained as proxies for their parents; in addition, children, including an infant as young as 6 months of age, have been detained alongside their mothers.

27. During the reporting period, the Mechanism has collected substantial evidence regarding specific detention locations where serious international crimes were allegedly committed by the Myanmar security forces, including by the Myanmar military and intelligence forces. At Yay Kyi Ai, Shwepyithar and the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters compound, detainees were interrogated over several days, during which they were subjected to physical torture, sexualized torture, and threats of death, including death of their family members. Women, men, boys and girls were subjected to sexualized torture at these detention facilities. Detainees were usually kept blindfolded and handcuffed throughout long periods of interrogation. Before being transferred to either the Shwepyithar Yay Kyi Ai or Nay Pyi Taw interrogation centre, victims have described being first subjected to torture at township police stations such as Myawaddy police station, Yankin police station, Kamayut Township police station, Hlaing Township police station, Bahan Township police station and Nay Pyi Taw police station. The Mechanism has produced analytical reports on several interrogation centres, which include specific information about individual interrogators and commanders.

28. Additionally, the Mechanism has collected numerous credible reports on detainees who died as a result of the ill-treatment they sustained during interrogations in various parts of the country, including in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Tanintharyi.

29. In July 2025, the Myanmar military authorities enacted a law criminalizing criticism of the elections, carrying sentences of up to 20 years' imprisonment and the death penalty. The Mechanism has investigated the arrests of numerous individuals, including children, under this law for alleged acts such as criticizing the elections on social media or distributing "anti-election" leaflets.

30. During the reporting period, the Mechanism investigated reproductive violence during detention and imprisonment, particularly affecting women and girls. This includes allegations involving the effective prohibition of the distribution of menstrual products and the denial of necessary medical care to individuals in detention, which in some reported instances resulted in the deaths of women who were not provided adequate postnatal care following childbirth. Detainees were also denied access to maternal, prenatal and postnatal healthcare and denied adequate nutrition, for both mothers and infants born in prison. At Insein Prison, infants died after being born in detention due to poor child healthcare.

B. Investigating current crimes committed in Rakhine State

31. Since 2024, the Mechanism has been investigating crimes committed by all perpetrators against Rohingya, Rakhine and other communities affected by the current armed conflict in Rakhine State between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army. These investigations are focused on three thematic areas: (a) indiscriminate or intentional aerial, naval and artillery attacks against civilians or civilian objects; (b) arbitrary detentions, torture and forced transfer of civilians from several villages; and (c) restrictions on humanitarian aid and essential supplies in Sittwe.

32. The conflict in Rakhine State intensified significantly during the reporting period, with increased aerial and artillery attacks and counteroffensives and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis. The escalating violence continues to force large numbers of individuals to seek refuge in nearby Bangladesh and elsewhere. Despite logistical challenges in identifying and safely engaging with such individuals, the Mechanism is conducting regular investigative missions to Bangladesh to meet with victims and survivors to obtain critical first-hand evidence of crimes committed by all perpetrators against Rohingya, Rakhine and other communities affected by the armed conflict in Rakhine State.

33. The Mechanism is examining reliable evidence that since 2025, there has been a significant increase in indiscriminate and intentional aerial and artillery attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including schools, hospitals, markets and monasteries. The Mechanism has opened investigations into allegations that the Myanmar Air Force carried out aerial attacks on two school buildings in Kyauktaw Township on 12 September 2025, on a hospital in Mrauk-U Township on 10 December 2025 and on a detention facility holding captive military personnel in Ann Township on 8 March 2026. The Mechanism is also investigating the reported use of drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles by the Myanmar Air Force in aerial attacks in Rakhine State, including an alleged attack on two Buddhist monasteries and a school in Kyaukphyu Township on 13 December 2025.

34. The Mechanism has further found evidence of naval and artillery attacks by the Myanmar military on markets, housing units and bridges across Rakhine State in 2024 and 2025, including alleged naval attacks on the Korean Port Market in February 2024 and on the Amyint Kyun bridge in October 2025, both in Sittwe Township.

35. Investigations have also progressed on the Myanmar military's unlawful detention and forced transfer of Rakhine civilians in Byaing Phyu village in Sittwe Township in June 2024. The Mechanism has expanded its investigations into similar incidents in mid-2024 when more than 15 other predominantly ethnic Rakhine villages in Sittwe Township along the Sittwe-Ponnagyun Highway were forcibly evacuated by the Myanmar military. Residents were ordered to relocate to Sittwe town, where they have since been effectively confined, as the Myanmar military has blocked the town's entry and exit points, preventing civilians from leaving. In addition, the Mechanism is investigating allegations of increased nighttime raids, mass arrests and killings at detention sites operated by the Myanmar military and military-affiliated armed groups in Sittwe, targeting detained Rakhine and Rohingya civilians.

36. The Mechanism is also investigating the ongoing obstruction of humanitarian assistance, including of medical and hygiene supplies, to affected communities, as well as reported starvation-related deaths across Rakhine State. During the reporting period, the Mechanism progressed in linking these crimes to the Myanmar military and/or military-affiliated armed groups. These investigations have been supported by evidence from a range of primary and secondary sources inside Rakhine State.

37. The Mechanism advanced its investigations into serious international crimes allegedly committed by members of the Arakan Army. During the reporting period, it collected and analysed evidence concerning allegations of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, against Rohingya women in Rakhine State, summary executions in Kyauktaw Township, and forced recruitment and use of children under the age of 15. The Mechanism's investigations also show that the Arakan Army is destroying mosques and repurposing such land for non-Rohingya resettlement. This activity has increased substantially since 2024 in connection with the Arakan Army's offensive in the Buthidaung and Maungdaw areas of Rakhine State. Reminiscent of the 2017 clearance operations, entire Rohingya areas have been cleared out by the Arakan Army, resulting in a new influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh. Within the context of these attacks, perpetrators have often used the same or similar religiously derogatory language that has been used by the Myanmar military in collectively targeting the Rohingya, such as "Bengali" or "kalar".

38. In addition to crimes allegedly committed by the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, the Mechanism is investigating other non-State armed groups operating in Rakhine State that may be implicated in the commission of serious international crimes. These groups include the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, the Rohingya Solidarity Organization and the Arakan Liberation Party, among others.

C. Investigating historic crimes committed against the Rohingya

39. In addition to investigating crimes committed during the most recent episodes of armed conflict and violence in Rakhine State described in section B above, the Mechanism continues to investigate crimes committed against the Rohingya population during the military clearance operations in 2016 and 2017 and the 2012 violence.

40. The Mechanism's investigations into all aspects of the 2016 and 2017 clearance operations executed by the Myanmar military are ongoing. The Mechanism has continued to identify villages that were subjected to attacks that had previously not been identified and investigated thoroughly. Furthermore, the Mechanism has advanced its analysis of the structure and role of the armed insurgency groups in opposition to the Myanmar military at the time of the clearance operations, notably the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. The Mechanism has also continued to identify and engage with "insiders" – former members of the Myanmar military – who have critical information about the execution of the clearance operations as well as about military structures, reporting and the chain of command. Finally, the Mechanism has developed several lines of inquiry concerning individuals and groups that may have contributed to the planning, preparation, encouragement, instigation or incitement of crimes committed during this period. These ongoing investigations extend beyond military actors and include politicians, religious figures, corporate actors and private individuals who may bear criminal responsibility. To advance these investigations, the Mechanism deployed investigative teams throughout the reporting period to engage with witnesses and victims in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

41. Moreover, in September 2025, the Mechanism published an analytical report entitled "The destruction and dispossession of Rohingya land and property during the 2017 clearance operations – public summary". The report analysed first-hand accounts of witnesses, geospatial imagery, video footage and extensive official records and documentation demonstrating the existence of a coordinated and organized effort to erase the existence of the Rohingya population in northern Rakhine by destroying, seizing and building military security structures directly over seven Rohingya villages. It details the destruction and seizure of Rohingya homes, farms, mosques and other property in seven village tracts and identifies units of the Myanmar security forces, corporations, and others involved in repurposing Rohingya land to erase all traces of the group, including by constructing Border Guard Police bases.

D. Sharing evidence and facilitating justice opportunities

42. The Mechanism shares information, evidence and analysis with competent investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities to facilitate criminal proceedings in national, regional or international courts or tribunals with jurisdiction over the crimes within the Mechanism's mandate. Pursuant to its terms of reference, on a case-by-case basis, the Mechanism may also share information for other purposes, such as investigations relating to violations of sanctions, where such cooperation contributes to the interests of justice or could help to deter further crimes in Myanmar.

43. Since its establishment, the Mechanism has produced 146 packages comprising evidentiary and analytical items that have been shared with competent investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities. During the reporting period, the Mechanism shared 27 evidentiary and analytical packages, comprising 6,626 items.

International Court of Justice

44. During the reporting period, the Mechanism contributed significantly to the proceedings before the International Court of Justice in the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar*. The case concerns allegations that Myanmar failed to fulfil its obligations as a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Gambia instituted proceedings before the International Court of Justice against Myanmar in November 2019, alleging that Myanmar had violated the Convention in relation to the Rohingya population in Rakhine State during the military clearance operations in 2016 and 2017. The case focuses on killings, sexual violence, the burning of villages, forced displacement and other alleged atrocities committed mainly by the Myanmar military. In January 2026, the court held public hearings on the merits of the case, which included the examination of victim and expert testimony.

45. The Mechanism provided a substantial volume of evidence and analysis to the parties to the proceedings, including nine detailed analytical reports, 40 witness statements, two screening notes with information from military defectors and one affidavit by the Head of the Mechanism. These materials also included geospatial analysis, independent expert reports and documentary evidence. The Mechanism's nine analytical reports addressed a wide range of issues, including the systematic and arbitrary arrest, detention and mistreatment of Rohingya in Buthidaung Prison; the Myanmar military's promulgation of hate speech on Facebook; the efforts of the Myanmar authorities to encourage the settlement in Rakhine State of Buddhists from neighbouring Bangladesh; and the failure of the Myanmar authorities to investigate widespread reports of sexual and gender-based violence and to prosecute the alleged perpetrators.

46. The Mechanism only shared evidence with the parties when the witness or information provider gave their full and informed consent, including the understanding that this evidence would be shared with Myanmar authorities. Beyond securing informed consent, the Mechanism took measures to ensure witness security, reflecting its continued commitment to the protection of those participating in these proceedings. The Mechanism proactively redacted personally identifying information from witness statements where the disclosure of such information could pose an elevated risk to the safety and security of witnesses and other individuals.

47. The public hearings highlighted the extent to which both parties referred to the work of the Mechanism. In particular, the Mechanism's reports on the destruction of Rohingya property and on the coordinated hate speech campaign on Facebook were cited extensively in relation to the assessment of the Myanmar authorities' genocidal intent.

48. The hearings also served as an important reminder of the scale and brutality of the military clearance operations in Rakhine State and of the Rohingya community's enduring pursuit of justice and accountability. As one of the most significant contemporary international law cases concerning allegations of genocide and accountability for atrocities committed against the Rohingya, the forthcoming judgment is expected to have important implications for the interpretation and application of the Genocide Convention not only in relation to Myanmar but also for other contexts.

International Criminal Court and the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Argentina

49. During the reporting period, the Mechanism shared evidence and analysis concerning crimes committed against the Rohingya with the International Criminal Court and the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Argentina in the context of their respective investigations. In November 2024, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced that he had requested an arrest warrant for Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar military, for the crimes against humanity of deportation and persecution of Rohingya. In February 2025, the Federal Criminal Court of Argentina ordered the issuance of arrest warrants summoning Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and 24 other individuals to appear before that Court to provide testimony relevant to the ongoing investigation by Argentinian authorities. The Mechanism continues to proactively identify evidence that could be relevant to these investigations and is responding to targeted requests from these authorities for additional and specific information or analysis, including in relation to specific individuals who are under investigation.

50. Concerning proceedings before the International Criminal Court, subsequent to the announcement by the Prosecutor in November 2024, the judges of the Court adopted an amendment to the Regulations of the Court classifying applications for arrest warrants as "secret" or "under seal", unless otherwise decided by the judges. As a result, such applications and related judicial decisions may remain confidential, which may include the request for an arrest warrant for Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Judges may, however, decide on a case-by-case basis to publicly confirm the issuance of an arrest warrant or summons, including in order to interrupt ongoing criminal conduct, to deter the commission of further crimes or to increase the likelihood of arrest.

Other national jurisdictions

51. In addition to these three jurisdictions, the Mechanism has engaged with multiple authorities in the United Kingdom to share information relating to crimes within its mandate, including crimes committed against the Rohingya and other groups in Myanmar, as well as crimes committed in the aftermath of the 2021 military coup. These authorities include the Metropolitan Police War Crimes Team – a specialized unit within the Counter Terrorism Command of the Metropolitan Police Service – which has opened a structural investigation mirroring the situations under consideration by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

52. The Mechanism's engagements with additional national jurisdictions remain confidential at the request of the relevant national authorities and due to the sensitivity and preliminary nature of the ongoing investigations. In particular, these investigations are focused on individuals who may have benefitted from and/or provided material assistance to perpetrators of serious international crimes in Myanmar in both the clearance operations of 2016 and 2017 in Rakhine State and the post-coup context. The Mechanism is responding to incoming requests for assistance from national authorities and is also proactively engaging with relevant jurisdictions to encourage investigations and proceedings.

53. Furthermore, the Mechanism is closely monitoring several criminal complaints filed by victims' groups and civil society organizations regarding post-coup crimes and crimes against the Rohingya during the clearance operations, which have been filed in national courts on the basis of universal or extraterritorial jurisdiction. Complaints have been filed and are currently pending consideration by authorities in Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Türkiye.

III. Progress on cooperation, dialogue and outreach

A. Cooperation with Member States and other partners

54. The Mechanism requires the cooperation of numerous entities, including Member States, international organizations, civil society groups, business entities and victims and witnesses, in order to collect information and evidence on the most serious international crimes committed in Myanmar. In an effort to strengthen cooperation with relevant stakeholders, the Mechanism continued to engage in high-level dialogues and consultations with Member States and other partners in various capitals. These engagements provided important opportunities to raise awareness of the Mechanism's work, to advance cooperation arrangements that facilitate evidence collection and witness interviews within the territories of Member States, and to promote opportunities for supporting accountability processes in national jurisdictions.

55. In accordance with relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly calling upon Myanmar to cooperate and engage meaningfully with the Mechanism, the Mechanism regularly requests information from the Myanmar military.

56. To date, the Mechanism has made over two dozen requests to the authorities of Myanmar for information in its possession and for access to the territory of Myanmar. During the reporting period, the Mechanism requested information concerning air strikes conducted by the Myanmar Air Force, including, but not limited to, certain incidents in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions, as well as in Rakhine and Chin States. The Mechanism also sought information on whether the Myanmar authorities possessed any records, reports or other documentation relating to investigations conducted by the Myanmar Air Force or other Myanmar security forces, or concerning disciplinary proceedings initiated in connection with violations of policy or potential crimes committed by Myanmar security forces in the context of these air strikes. As in previous reporting periods, the Myanmar authorities have not responded to any of the Mechanism's requests for information or access.

57. During the reporting period, the Mechanism also made requests for information to armed groups active in different states and regions of the country concerning crimes including the killing of civilians and sexual and gender-based violence. The Mechanism

typically requests information concerning the alleged crimes and perpetrators, and also available records or reports on the investigations and/or sanctions or sentences that the non-State armed group conducted or ordered against its personnel allegedly responsible for the crimes. In response to these requests, the Mechanism has received some cooperation, including from groups that have provided information concerning the incidents, the alleged perpetrators, and the internal procedures, investigations and sanctions.

58. The Mechanism continued to seek the cooperation of relevant Member States to facilitate the Mechanism's investigative activities, particularly witness interviews, on their territory. Expanding such cooperation continues to be a high priority for the Mechanism, especially with Member States in the Asia-Pacific region where much of the evidence and many of the witnesses are located. To date, the Mechanism has concluded cooperation arrangements with 12 Member States.

59. In May 2026, the Government of France completed its approval process for the Convention on International Judicial Cooperation with the Mechanism. The agreement, which was concluded between France and the Mechanism in June 2024, establishes a legal framework for reciprocal judicial cooperation and entered into force on 1 July 2026. This represents an important step in strengthening cooperation between the Mechanism and national authorities in support of accountability efforts for serious international crimes committed in Myanmar. The Convention enables the Mechanism and the French authorities to cooperate on investigations relating to serious international crimes committed in Myanmar. Under the agreement, the Mechanism may request access to witnesses and information located in France, while France may request information from the Mechanism for use in its judicial proceedings. The Convention serves a similar purpose as the national laws of Austria and Belgium, which were both amended in 2024 to enable cooperation between the Mechanism and the authorities of these countries.

60. In line with relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and with its terms of reference, the Mechanism continued to rely on the support and cooperation of United Nations entities that may have information relevant to the Mechanism's mandate or that could provide support in other areas of its operations. This includes the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and other United Nations entities. In accordance with a memorandum of understanding, the Mechanism continues to cooperate closely with OHCHR to enhance the complementarity of the respective mandates: for the Mechanism, conducting criminal investigations into serious international crimes in Myanmar, and for OHCHR, carrying out fact-finding, monitoring, documentation, advocacy and engagement with stakeholders in relation to human rights violations in Myanmar.

B. Dialogue with civil society and public outreach

61. The Mechanism considers effective communication and outreach to be an integral part of its mandate, as reflected in its new Public Information and Outreach Strategy. It therefore engages regularly with survivors, civil society organizations, accountability actors and other key audiences through targeted outreach and communication initiatives designed to explain its mandate, its methods of work and the scope of its functions and limitations. By maintaining open channels of communication and fostering constructive dialogue, the Mechanism seeks to strengthen confidence in its relevance, independence and impartiality, while encouraging continued support for its work.

62. The Mechanism's Facebook page is a key channel for communicating with audiences in Myanmar and neighbouring countries, where it has approximately 79,000 followers. During the reporting period, engagement on the platform increased significantly, nearly tripling compared to the previous period. In peak months, the Mechanism's Facebook content reached more than 100,000 users through extensive sharing and interaction. Given the risks associated with engaging on social media in Myanmar, these figures suggest that the Mechanism's content is regarded as a valuable and trusted source of information. In November 2025, the Mechanism further expanded its digital outreach through the launch of its LinkedIn page, which has already attracted nearly 2,000 followers.

63. Moreover, the Mechanism continued its efforts to increase public understanding of its mandate and work and of ongoing justice processes relating to Myanmar. In particular, it produced explainers in multiple languages of Myanmar to help audiences better understand proceedings before the International Court of Justice and other accountability developments. The Mechanism also developed animated videos in English, Burmese and Rohingya, as well as outreach materials on crimes against and affecting children, which were widely disseminated.

64. The Mechanism continued to actively engage with international, regional and local media through press releases, media statements, calls for information, interviews and press briefings. These efforts resulted in more than 20 in-depth interviews and over 400 mentions in media stories during the reporting period. The Mechanism also increased its engagement with various media organizations of diverse ethnic communities serving audiences in Myanmar by contributing to their news reporting and conducting multiple virtual and in-person briefings to support accurate understanding of its mandate and activities among journalists.

65. Maintaining regular contact with victims, survivors, affected communities and civil society organizations remains a central priority for the Mechanism. Such efforts help ensure that those affected by serious international crimes in Myanmar are informed about the Mechanism's role in advancing justice and understand how information relating to their experiences is collected, preserved and analysed in support of accountability efforts. Through regular in-person and virtual briefings, the Mechanism also strengthens collaboration, builds trust and incorporates feedback and concerns into its work. During the reporting period, the Mechanism met directly with hundreds of Myanmar community members living outside the country. This included participation in discussions with Myanmar communities and outreach events with diaspora groups in Australia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

66. Through the annual Civil Society Dialogue, the Mechanism brings together representatives of diverse civil society organizations for in-person exchanges with its personnel to strengthen mutual understanding and trust. During the reporting period, the Mechanism made preparations for its fourth Dialogue, scheduled for later in 2026. Participants from previous years' Dialogues also met virtually to sustain engagement and discuss recent developments and progress.

67. In August 2025, the Head of the Mechanism participated in the Stakeholders' Dialogue in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to discuss strategies to support the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. In his keynote speech on accountability and justice for atrocities committed against the Rohingya, he emphasized that repatriation would not be possible unless violence against the Rohingya ended and those responsible for atrocities were held accountable. He further underscored that impunity for the 2016 and 2017 clearance operations, coupled with ongoing violence in Rakhine State, continued to drive further abuses and displacement. In addition, he participated in various discussions with Rohingya communities.

68. The Stakeholders' Dialogue in Bangladesh formed part of the preparatory process for the High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2025, which was also attended by the Head of the Mechanism. The conference sought to focus international attention on the plight of the more than 1 million Rohingya forcibly displaced from Myanmar and to identify solutions to support their safe, voluntary and sustainable return. On the margins of the High-level Conference, the Mechanism launched its report entitled "The destruction and dispossession of Rohingya land and property during the 2017 clearance operations – public summary" at a side event co-sponsored by Australia and Finland, the European Union, Legal Action Worldwide and the Global Justice Center.

IV. Progress in other areas of the Mechanism

A. Witness protection

69. Despite the resource constraints faced during the reporting period, the Mechanism's commitment to the security and well-being of witnesses and other individuals who collaborate with the Mechanism has remained unwavering. The Mechanism continued to refine its methodologies and operational standards in adherence to international best practices. The Mechanism utilizes the latest technologies and best practices to minimize the risk to those cooperating with it. The Mechanism is not a police force and has no authority to grant anyone the right to travel to or reside in any country. Rather, the Mechanism depends upon the cooperation of States for any such measures. The Mechanism engages with many victim-survivors, many in Myanmar and others scattered around the globe, whom it asks to recount extremely traumatic experiences. However, the Mechanism has very limited resources and capacity to provide psychosocial support to such individuals. The Mechanism has therefore sought to establish partnerships with relevant organizations that are willing and able to provide such support.

70. During the reporting period, the Mechanism expanded its witness protection and support activities. It conducted a greater number of risk assessments, covering both security and psychosocial dimensions, and implemented additional mitigation measures. During the reporting period, the Mechanism conducted 137 risk assessments, including many aimed at identifying comprehensive security and psychosocial risks to ensuring that witnesses and information providers engage with the Mechanism in a secure manner.

71. The Mechanism also responded to increasingly complex protection cases, including cases involving individuals facing significant security threats and psychosocial challenges. During the reporting period, the Mechanism provided direct protection and psychosocial support for 28 witness interviews in multiple jurisdictions and managed the protection of high-value witnesses during their resettlement processes, while maintaining close coordination with international partners throughout.

B. Language support

72. The diversity and number of linguistic groups in Myanmar adds a layer of complexity to the Mechanism's activities. Most of the information and evidence that the Mechanism has collected is in the Myanmar language (Burmese), or other languages used in Myanmar, and is written in different scripts and in different file formats. Additionally, the majority of victims, survivors, witnesses, sources and civil society stakeholders speak the Myanmar language (Burmese), or other languages used in Myanmar (such as Chin, Kachin, Karen, Rakhine and Rohingya). Accordingly, the Mechanism requires timely and accurate language translation and interpretation capabilities in order to conduct its collection and analysis activities effectively as well as to engage routinely and meaningfully with a wide range of stakeholders.

73. The Mechanism continued to provide language support through a broad range of language services. While the translation of evidentiary material collected by the Mechanism remained a priority, the growing volume of witness screenings and interviews also required extensive interpretation support across multiple languages. In addition, language services were required for communication with stakeholders in the context of public information and outreach activities, witness protection measures and security coordination functions.

74. In an ongoing effort, the Mechanism is developing tools with the aim of standardizing interpretations and translations. For instance, it maintains a glossary database containing more than 8,000 entries in Burmese, English and Rohingya. The glossary continues to be expanded and refined through coordination between language experts, investigation teams and information providers – which includes the addition of specialized terminology related to sexual and gender-based crimes, military matters and legal concepts.

C. Security of personnel and assets

75. The Mechanism makes every effort to protect its personnel, assets and interlocutors and to safeguard its investigative activities, even in the most challenging environments. Taking place under strict discretion and confidentiality, these efforts have been crucial to the safe and effective delivery of its mandated activities. The Mechanism incorporates security considerations in all of its operational activities, including in highly dynamic security environments, in order to continually assess and mitigate complex security challenges and ensure the security of its personnel, premises and assets.

76. The Mechanism has continued to adhere to a security risk management approach aligned with the United Nations Security Management System policy framework, including ongoing threat and risk assessments and dynamic risk mitigation measures. Through the implementation of a structured security risk management framework, the Mechanism has minimized exposure to security risks while maintaining operational continuity. The strengthening of physical and information security measures, including secure communications, data protection and controlled access, has further safeguarded personnel, assets and sensitive information, including witnesses and other interlocutors. The Mechanism's cybersecurity and security coordination experts collaborate closely to safeguard the Mechanism's sensitive data through a unified and integrated approach to addressing threats. These measures have ensured that engagement with witnesses and interlocutors, as well as investigative and other operational activities, can be conducted safely and securely, despite the heightened risks posed by the Myanmar security forces' targeting of individuals perceived as acting against its interests and the increasing activities of non-State armed groups.

D. Technology and infrastructure

77. The Mechanism's collection of information, documentation and evidence often involves the receipt of a wide range of materials from witnesses and information providers in various formats, including traditional print media, such as newspapers, as well as audio, visual, digital and social media content.

78. The Mechanism has continued to advance its use of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to address capability gaps, to respond to the growing volume of evidentiary material and to adapt to the evolving digital landscape. Current initiatives include artificial intelligence-supported tools for Burmese-to-English translations, the further automation of administrative workflows, and enhanced functionalities within the Case Analysis Platform used for evidence analysis. Through this platform, the Mechanism systematically extracts, organizes and annotates facts from evidentiary material to enable the analysis of key facts required to establish the elements of crimes. Given the rapid pace of technological developments, the Mechanism expects artificial intelligence to continue providing opportunities to strengthen its capabilities in future reporting periods.

79. Moreover, the Mechanism developed and operationalized a computer vision platform that enables investigators and analysts to search, analyse and identify relevant material from its repository of visual evidence. By detecting designated items, including specific weapons and insignia, across more than 5 million photos and videos, the platform strengthens the Mechanism's analytical capabilities and supports targeted lines of inquiry. The platform also identifies graphic and disturbing images, which serves to help mitigate the risk of secondary trauma for Mechanism personnel who are exposed to such materials.

80. From a cybersecurity perspective, the digital communications landscape, including phones, computers and software, is evolving rapidly. As restrictive digital infrastructure technologies expand in Myanmar and the neighbouring region, technologies that were previously reliable and trusted are becoming increasingly restricted or no longer functional. In response, the Mechanism is keeping abreast of technological advances in order to maintain safe and secure contact with witnesses and other interlocutors in the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, the Mechanism has implemented a number of additional systems and

methodologies to enable close monitoring and mitigation of most known cyberthreats identified over the reporting period.

V. Challenges and the way forward

81. As is inherent in the nature of its mandate and operating environment, the Mechanism continues to face persistent challenges – including the lack of direct access to witnesses in Myanmar and other States in the region, the lack of cooperation from key Member States in the Asia-Pacific region, and growing threats to the safety and security of personnel, witnesses and interlocutors, as well as cybersecurity threats to communications and limitations in ensuring secure access to information. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the unprecedented liquidity crisis, austerity measures and declining availability of extrabudgetary funding across the United Nations during the reporting period. This development led to substantial reductions in staff and other resources.

82. Compounding these budgetary challenges, extrabudgetary funding cuts announced by several Member States during the current and previous reporting periods have created heightened uncertainty regarding the future of key donor-funded projects. As a result, the Mechanism is losing resources and capacity at a time when serious international crimes in Myanmar are only intensifying.

83. The Mechanism is continuing to face a critical loss of investigative capacity relating to sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against and affecting children due to the abolition of one investigator position in the regular budget and the loss of specialist positions funded through extrabudgetary resources. However, investigations of sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against and affecting children continue to be prioritized and have been mainstreamed throughout the Mechanism's work. As a result, all investigators, lawyers and analysts have the capacity to investigate these crimes and are instructed to prioritize these cases.

84. In addition, the sole funder of projects focusing on witness protection and support, and on analysis of Burmese-language evidence, terminated its contributions and withdrew its support from a multi-donor project on open-source investigations, resulting in a contraction of the Mechanism's open-source capacity.

85. The Mechanism is grateful for the support it has received from donors, and appeals to Member States, private entities and foundations to consider voluntary contributions to sustain these critical initiatives and support accountability for the most serious international crimes committed in Myanmar.

VI. Conclusion

86. During the reporting period, the situation in Myanmar was described as a “forgotten conflict”. It is important to underscore that Myanmar has not been forgotten by the Mechanism. Every day, its investigators, lawyers and analysts work to collect, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes committed across the country. The Mechanism continues to deepen its investigations into an expanding range of alleged crimes, while engaging with national and international investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities to facilitate criminal proceedings and other accountability processes. These efforts are driven by the fundamental imperative of ensuring accountability for serious international crimes committed in Myanmar and contributing to justice for victims and survivors.

87. Nevertheless, achieving justice is neither quick nor easy; it is often a long, complex and challenging process. The scale and complexity of crimes committed in Myanmar, combined with ongoing violence and insecurity as well as resource constraints, continue to present serious challenges. Recent reductions in funding have affected certain aspects of the Mechanism's work and have regrettably limited its ability to expand investigations in some priority areas. Nonetheless, the Mechanism remains steadfast in its mandate and committed to delivering on the expectations of victims and survivors. The Mechanism will strive to work independently, impartially and with determination to collect and preserve evidence, to

identify those most responsible for the crimes committed in Myanmar and to support accountability efforts wherever the opportunities arise. Above all, it will continue to ensure that the experiences, voices and rights of victims and survivors remain at the centre of its work.
