ADRESSING THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN MYANMAR

SECURITY COUNCIL 1

Issue Description:
The Republic of Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia. Myanmar is currently undergoing a civil war (a large-scale armed conflict between organized groups within the same country) which had started in 2021. The civil war involves Myanmar's military, pro-democracy resistance groups, and several ethnic armed organizations. The UN estimated that nearly 3.8 million people have been displaced and more than 16 million people are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Myanmar has been dealing with armed conflicts since their independence in 1948, but the civil war became more prominent since the military coup on 1 February 2021, when the military overthrew the previously elected government, claiming that the elections results were invalid. It triggered mass demonstrations and violent riots, which significantly escalated the situation even further. In the years following the coup, thousands of people fled to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, India and Thailand.

Several major groups are involved in the conflict. On the military pro-government side is the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw), which seized the power in the 2021 coup. On the opposing side are the National Unity Government (NUG), a civilian government that leads the resistance against the military junta. The conflict also involves numerous independent ethnic armed organizations. They each have different political objectives and thoughts on ways of ruling the country.

Why has this issue not been resolved?
The civil war in Myanmar has not been resolved yet, because several conflicts have become tangled together. There are numerous groups who all want to rule the country. Even groups that cooperate against the military don't necessarily agree about what Myanmar should look like afterward. Even if the military decided to cease fire, there would still be major questions about territory, governance, and ethnic regions. Peace agreements are difficult to make, because the different organizations don't believe the other side will keep its promises.

Important stances on the issue
Myanmar: The military is fighting against the pro-democracy resistance groups and ethnic armed organizations.

China: Provides economic support to Myanmar's military junta in order to maintain their economic interests.

Russia: Major supporter of Myanmar's military government, particularly through military cooperation and arms supplies.

Thailand and Bangladesh: Act as a host country to millions of refugees, and manages border

security. Its main concerns are the refugee crisis, border security and the eventual safe return of refugees to Myanmar.

India: Maintains relations with the military government while also being concerned about the refugees, border security and armed groups operating near its northeastern states. It has also provided humanitarian assistance.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

United Nations
The UN has put the foundation for partner organizations that provide food, healthcare, clean water and protection for the citizens of Myanmar. The issue is still being discussed in the Security Council.

ASEAN
The ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) have created the Five-Point Consensus, calling for an end to all violence and treaties between the different armed groups in Myanmar, but without success. They still encourage Myanmar to resolve the ongoing conflict as quick as possible.

Red Cross
The Red Cross has provided emergency healthcare and long-term assistance for displaced people in Myanmar through the Red Cross Society and the ICRC.

World health organization (WHO) and the World food programme (WFP) have delivered quick response to crisis areas within Myanmar. The WHO is active in disease surveillance programmes and medical healthcare, while the WFP focuses on providing crucial nutrition and school feeding programs for the millions of people affected by the civil war.

Sources

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Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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