

Press Statement

ASEAN Stakeholder Engagement on Myanmar:

Summary of Discussions and Key Messages

January 27, 2026

The undersigned Myanmar stakeholder organizations express their appreciation to the ASEAN Chair of 2026, the Republic of the Philippines, for convening the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting (SEM) on Myanmar, under the facilitation of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar.

The meeting brought together a broad range of Myanmar political stakeholders to advance ASEAN's ongoing efforts to support peace, stability, and a sustainable resolution to the political and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

The Stakeholder Engagement Meeting provided an inclusive platform for substantive discussions on the evolving situation in Myanmar, with a focus on advancing the effective implementation of the **ASEAN Five-Point Consensus**, reducing violence, ensuring humanitarian access, and supporting an inclusive political process.

Key Areas of Discussion

1. De-escalation of Violence and Civilian Protection

Stakeholders reviewed the sharp escalation of violence across multiple regions, including increased aerial bombardments, artillery strikes, forced conscription, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. They highlighted the severe humanitarian and political consequences of sustained violence, including mass displacement, food insecurity, and the erosion of local governance. They also emphasized that without a credible reduction in hostilities, progress on humanitarian access and political dialogue will remain severely constrained. The need for clearer benchmarks, stronger monitoring arrangements, and enhanced regional coordination to protect civilians was a central theme of discussion.

2. Humanitarian Assistance

Stakeholders discussed the scale and complexity of humanitarian needs, including internally displaced populations, cross-border displacement, and severely underfunded response mechanisms. They also discussed operational access challenges, including restrictions in contested territories and risks faced by local responders. The importance of diversifying delivery modalities while maintaining humanitarian principles was emphasized. Stakeholders underscored the importance of improved coordination between local humanitarian actors,

regional mechanisms, and international partners to reduce duplication, enhance transparency, and strengthen accountability.

3. Inclusive Political Dialogue

Stakeholders reflected on the transformation of Myanmar's political landscape since the coup of 2021, including the emergence of new governance structures and evolving federal aspirations across states and regions. They noted that pre-coup ceasefire-based frameworks no longer reflect current realities and that any future political pathway must accommodate a broader spectrum of legitimate stakeholders. They discussed the sequencing of humanitarian pause, confidence-building, and political dialogue, alongside the importance of long-term constitutional reform and transitional justice mechanisms.

4. Transnational Crime and Regional Implications

The expansion of cyber-scam operations, human trafficking networks, narcotics flows, and illicit financial transactions, especially those located in Myanmar, was identified as a direct regional security concern. Stakeholders examined how conflict dynamics and governance vacuums have enabled criminal economies to proliferate, with cross-border consequences for neighboring states. They emphasized the need for coordinated regional enforcement, improved intelligence-sharing, and engagement with relevant actors as part of a more adaptive regional security approach.

5. Implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus

Stakeholders reviewed progress and constraints in implementing the Five-Point Consensus. They highlighted fragmentation and discontinuity across ASEAN-led initiatives, the absence of measurable indicators, and limited continuity across chairmanships. They emphasized that restoring confidence in ASEAN's centrality requires stronger continuity between successive ASEAN Chairs, clearer sequencing of actions, systematic reporting mechanisms, and strengthened compliance and accountability measures.

Based on the discussions, stakeholders underscored the following key messages:

1. Upholding the Integrity of the Five-Point Consensus:

Stakeholders stressed that any political or electoral process conducted amid ongoing violence, repression, and exclusion is inconsistent with the spirit and objectives of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus (5PC). They recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision of 11 November 2022, which mandated the development of a concrete implementation plan with practical and measurable indicators and defined timelines.

Stakeholders urged ASEAN to operationalize this directive through a consolidated implementation framework that integrates existing initiatives, establishes sequencing across humanitarian and political tracks, and provides systematic reporting to ASEAN

Leaders. They emphasized that strengthened coherence among Member States and continuity across chairmanships are essential to safeguard ASEAN centrality and uphold the integrity of the 5PC.

2. Protection of Civilians as an Urgent Priority:

Stakeholders emphasized that violence reduction must be treated as an immediate and measurable objective. They referenced proposals discussed in previous Stakeholder Engagement Meetings in 2025, including ASEAN-led monitoring arrangements, designation of civilian protection zones, and strengthened cooperation with the United Nations to reinforce compliance with international humanitarian law and UNSC Resolution 2669.

Stakeholders recommended that ASEAN establish time-bound expectations for the cessation of indiscriminate airstrikes, artillery bombardment, village destruction, and forced recruitment. They further emphasized the importance of enhanced monitoring and early-warning mechanisms, developed in coordination with credible local stakeholders, to strengthen civilian protection. Closer ASEAN–UN coordination on accountability and compliance mechanisms would further reinforce civilian protection.

3. Humanitarian Imperative:

Stakeholders welcomed ASEAN Leaders' recognition of the need to complement the AHA Centre's efforts with additional modalities, including cross-border assistance where necessary, as stated in the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) adopted on 26 October 2025. They reiterated the importance of sustaining, institutionalizing and regularly convening the Inclusive Humanitarian Forum (IHF), which was inaugurated in November 2025, under the ASEAN Troika framework to ensure continuity, sustained regional support, and policy coherence regarding humanitarian support beyond a single Chairmanship.

The IHF is designed as a Myanmar-stakeholder-led, regionally facilitated coordination and information platform to consolidate humanitarian data, strengthen access analysis, harmonize operational priorities, and promote principled engagement across local, cross-border, and regional levels. Stakeholders recommended that ASEAN support the IHF as a standing coordination mechanism facilitated in partnership with the Office of the Special Envoy and ASEAN Troika to:

- Strengthen situational awareness through shared information systems;
- Improve alignment between local humanitarian organizations, resistance-linked humanitarian agencies, regional actors, and international partners;
- Enhance transparency, accountability, and adherence to humanitarian principles;
- Facilitate diversified delivery modalities, including cross-border channels where operationally required.

Stakeholders further encouraged strengthened engagement with credible local humanitarian and governance actors, and the facilitation of community-centered and cross-border delivery channels to ensure principled, needs-based assistance reaches conflict-affected populations directly.

4. **Inclusive Political Process:** Stakeholders urged ASEAN to formalize and support a structured, multilateral political process that meaningfully includes legitimate resistance and democratic stakeholders and reflects Myanmar's post-2021 political realities. They called on ASEAN to provide regular, safe and neutral platforms for dialogue; facilitate travel and logistical arrangements to ensure full participation; and ensure sustained engagement by the Special Envoy, with continuity supported through regional mechanisms.

Stakeholders further recommended sequencing humanitarian pause, confidence-building measures, and political dialogue in alignment with the Five-Point Consensus and ASEAN Leaders' decisions, while encouraging development of constitutional reform pathways and transitional justice mechanisms consistent with federal democratic principles.

5. **Regional Stability and ASEAN Credibility:**

Stakeholders underscored that the crisis in Myanmar is no longer a purely domestic issue but a direct and escalating regional security concern, with spillover effects including cross-border forced displacement, irregular migration, transnational crime, and economic disruption. They urged ASEAN to adopt a more internally coordinated coherent and unified regional strategy that integrates humanitarian, political, and security responses under a clear implementation framework with measurable benchmarks. They further called for strengthened coordination among Member States, sustained utilization of the Troika mechanism to ensure continuity, and consistent messaging on key issues including violence, sham electoral processes, and accountability to safeguard ASEAN centrality, credibility, and long-term regional stability.

In closing, stakeholders expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Chair of 2026 and the Special Envoy for facilitating an inclusive and principled stakeholder engagement process. They reaffirmed, and commitment to continue engaging constructively with ASEAN, the United Nations, and international partners in support of peace, humanitarian access, inclusive dialogue, and a democratic and federal future for Myanmar.

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3. Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)
4. All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)
5. Chin National Front (CNF)
6. Karen National Union (KNU)
7. Mandalay Interim Governance Council (MIGC)
8. Mon State Federal Council (MSFC)
9. Muslim of Myanmar Multi-Ethnic Consultative Committee (MMMCC)
10. New Mon State Party (Anti-military Dictatorship) NMSP(AD)
11. Pa-O National Federal Council (PNFC)
12. Rohingya Consultative Council-Interim (RCC)