



**29th special session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 12 February 2021**

The human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar

Madam President,

Echoing the voice of our local humanitarian partners and of the local Catholic Church, Caritas expresses grave concern about the impact of the escalating violence on the already fragile humanitarian situation and on the ability of aid organisations to reach people in need.

End of January, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners launched the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Myanmar¹ to support close to 1 million people in need and to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, since the outbreak of the crisis, access to vulnerable communities has been further restricted putting extreme strain on humanitarian organisations' capacity to deliver life-saving assistance and to ensure the protection of people, particularly those in conflict-affected areas and IDP communities in Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin states.

In light of these circumstances, we call on all concerned stakeholders:

- to secure unhindered and safe humanitarian access to deliver life-saving assistance and resume the response to the pandemic
- to refrain from using violence and restore the rule of law and principles of democracy

We also call on the Human Rights Council and the international community:

- to closely monitor the human rights and humanitarian situation in Myanmar through appropriate UN human rights mechanisms, and
- to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and support any effort for a peaceful resolution of the current crisis through dialogue and reconciliation in

¹https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/mmr_humanitarian_response_plan_2021_final.pdf

accordance with the will of the people of Myanmar, which is the only way to achieve « *an harmonious and democratic cohabitation* ».²

² <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-02/pope-angelus-appeal-myanmar.html>