

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

006 – Public Hearing – 13 May 2021

Topic: Arms Embargoes

Mr Julian Hill MP

Question

Mr HILL: Beyond the Australian sanction, restriction or whatever we want to call it on arms from Australia, have we been part of any of those broader multilateral or international discussions about arms embargoes?

Mrs Worthaisong: I will have to check exactly what conversations have happened in multilateral settings on that.

CHAIR: I presume they're largely discussions in the UN Security Council, of which we're not a member. Am I correct in that?

Mrs Worthaisong: Yes.

CHAIR: If we're talking about imposing a global arms embargo, it would need to be imposed by the UN Security Council?

Mr HILL: Presumably, though, we'd influence people who are.

CHAIR: Yes.

Mr HILL: Could you take that on notice, because it is an issue which comes up from a lot of the experts in the public hearing.

Answer

- Australia's autonomous sanctions regime includes a continuing arms embargo against Myanmar, and we support calls for a global arms embargo against Myanmar.
- A global arms embargo would require a decision of the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- Australia has been part of discussions on the inclusion of text in a draft UN General Assembly resolution on Myanmar calling for an immediate suspension of the direct and indirect supply, sale, or transfer of all weapons, munitions and other military-related equipment to Myanmar.