



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs
National Unity Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

8 November 2022

Excellencies,

On the occasion of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Cambodia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as represented by the National Unity Government (NUG), urges you as ASEAN leaders to prioritise the security, wellbeing, and democratic will and interests of the people of Myanmar as you determine ASEAN's way forward on Myanmar.

While you convene, the illegal military junta continues to escalate its indiscriminate attacks on civilians. Its bombing of schools and torching of villages has been joined by extreme atrocities that include beheadings and the burning to death of women and children. Even ASEAN appeals held no sway in stopping the extrajudicial execution of pro-democracy activists. The junta's detention of foreign nationals as a form of hostage-taking comprises yet another example of its terrorism.

In the midst of a humanitarian crisis that has seen one million civilians displaced, the junta's acts of aggression – which include cross-border incursions – also constitute a clear threat to the peace and security of the region and to the populations of ASEAN Member States.

At the same time, the National Unity Government and its ethnic and civic partners have achieved an historic convergence. We exercise control over more than half of the territory of Myanmar and are delivering public services including healthcare, humanitarian relief and education. Under the leadership of the representative National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the democratically-constituted Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), Myanmar is crafting a new federal democratic framework to address the grievances and to ensure the full inclusion of our ethnic and minority communities including the Rohingya. We also remain committed to international justice and to securing accountability for all crimes.

Where the NUG stands committed to partnership with ASEAN Members, the lack of progress on the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) necessitates a fresh approach. We therefore urge you as ASEAN leaders to take the following actions:

- 1. Replace or expand the 5PC with a new framework that establishes formal mechanisms for engagement with the NUG as the legitimate representative of the**

Myanmar people. This should include NUG attendance at future ASEAN meetings and summits.

- 2. Prioritise the urgent delivery of cross-border humanitarian assistance to all communities in need. This should see engagement with the NUG, Ethnic Resistance Organisations (EROs) and Myanmar civil society, and see the ASEAN AHA Centre endorse the joint humanitarian track agreed between the NUG's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MOHADM) and EROs.**
- 3. Expand the provision of support to Myanmar nationals who have been forced to flee the country by junta operations and atrocities, including by respecting the principle of non-refoulement.**
- 4. Convene dialogues on humanitarian issues affecting Myanmar with the Friends of ASEAN (China, India, United Kingdom, and the United States).**
- 5. Support a long-term people-centered political solution to the multiple junta-induced crises in Myanmar. This must include constitutional and structural reform that is guided by the democratic will of the people of Myanmar and that involves the genuine participation of all Myanmar groups and communities. Under no circumstances should sham junta-led elections be permitted.**
- 6. Support action on Myanmar by the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly, which would prove complementary to and reinforcing of ASEAN's efforts.**

While the Myanmar people face a supremely dark moment in their history, we also see a brighter future. We remain united and determined to shape a renewed nation founded on peace, justice, equality, inclusion, human rights, and the protection of minorities. We also remain hopeful that with political will and creativity, ASEAN can help break the decades-long cycle of military atrocities and help us to secure sustainable and people-centered political solutions.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Zin Mar Aung
Union Minister