TO: H.E. Mr. Suharso Monoarfa, Co-Chair, GPEDC H.E. Mrs. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, Co-Chair, GPEDC Ms. Marie Ottosson, Co-Chair, GPEDC Mr. Vitalice Meja, Non-Executive Co-Chair, GPEDC Yuko Suzuki Naab, Development Cooperation Effectiveness Group, UNDP Wouter Coussement, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD Thomas Boehler, Joint Support Team Contact Yumna Rathore, Joint Support Team Contact Park Jin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

29 November 2023

Subject: Request to revoke 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum invitation to Myanmar military junta member

Dear GPEDC leadership,

We are writing this open letter to you on behalf of Myanmar regional and international civil society organisations working together to protect Myanmar people's right to democratic representation internationally. We call on you to revoke the invitation to the Myanmar military junta member for the upcoming 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum and publicly affirm your support for the people of Myanmar.

It has recently been brought to our attention that the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has invited a representative of the illegal Myanmar military junta to your 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum which will be held on December 5 and 6 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The GPEDC and the Korean Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent an invitation to the military junta-controlled Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, which is led by the junta's 'minister', Kan Zaw, who has recently been sanctioned by the European Unionⁱ and the United States.ⁱⁱ The sanctions are in response to his role in facilitating the flow of foreign funds to the military junta that is responsible for the attempted coup and ongoing atrocities against the people of Myanmar.

We would like to draw your attention to the current political situation in Myanmar. As you are likely to be aware, a democratic general election was held in Myanmar on November 8, 2020. In a landslide victory, the voters elected a government led by the incumbent National League for Democracy party. Independent national and international election observers unanimously concluded^{iii iv v} that the election was free and fair, and the result represented the will of the Myanmar people.

Yet, on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military launched an illegal coup attempt. Since then, an illegal and illegitimate military junta has seized multiple institutions of government, including domestic ministries and overseas embassies, and attempted to pose as the government of Myanmar. The junta refers to itself as the 'State Administrative Council' (SAC), even though it has neither the authority to hold government office nor effective control over the majority of Myanmar's territories, which are under the administration of the democratic resistance movement and ethnic administration bodies.vi

Under the guise of the SAC, the military junta has launched a nationwide campaign of heinous crimes against the people of Myanmar in an attempt to suppress and control them. Since the attempted coup, the military has killed 4,202 people and imprisoned 19,721 more.^{vii} The military has committed massacres, indiscriminate airstrikes, artillery shelling, torture, sexual and gender-based violence and mass arson. As a result of these crimes, almost 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes^{viii} since the attempted coup began and tens of thousands more have been forced to flee to neighboring countries. Such atrocities amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and these have been committed by the same military that stands accused of genocide and other gross crimes against the Rohingya before the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and in the universal jurisdiction case in Argentina. Thus, it would be an affront to democracy and the people of Myanmar to include a military junta member as an international representative of Myanmar.

The Myanmar military junta's ability to gain and retain power depends on violence, coercion, access to funds, arms and other resources, and importantly, the blanket impunity it has enjoyed through the absence of overdue justice and accountability. Further, when foreign governments and public institutions engage with the military junta as though it were a government, this risks significant harms for the people of Myanmar, including:

- decisions being made on behalf of Myanmar people that are not in their interests;
- legitimising the Myanmar military junta and assisting their illegal attempts to appear as a government; and
- assisting the military junta in its illegal (and to date unsuccessful) quest to take full control of the country.

Further, the Myanmar military junta is a criminal organisation which is involved in widespread systemic corruption. During the rule of the previous military junta, the military consolidated its control over Myanmar's key industries through a vast network of state-owned and military-controlled business entities operating in energy, raw materials, food, beverages, alcohol, tobacco, banking, construction, logistics, agriculture, real estate and international trade markets.^{ix} These provide billions in revenue from across the economy, enabling the military junta to corruptly fund its campaign of terror against the people of Myanmar. The major business entities controlled by the Myanmar military are all currently subject to sanctions from one or more governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia and the European Union.^x

The planned venue of the 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum, Lotte Hotel in Seoul, is owned by Lotte Corporation,^{xi} a company which is implicated in the Myanmar military's corrupt business network through a joint enterprise.^{xii} Research by civil society organisations found that Lotte Corporation is also an investor in the Lotte Hotel and Serviced Apartments complex in Yangon, Myanmar. This complex is built on land leased from the Myanmar Army's Office of the Quartermaster General of the Commander-in-Chief, under a build-operate-transfer agreement. Under this agreement, the military will take control of the complex are paying millions of US dollars in fees to the Office of the Quartermaster General.^{xiii} Lotte Corporation is a co-investor in the complex alongside Spirit Paradise Services which is owned by Ne Aung, the brother of the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Navy, Moe Aung and a longtime Myanmar military crony. Ne Aung is also an owner of the conglomerate, IGE, which

was sanctioned by the European Union in February 2022 for providing financial support to companies linked to the Myanmar military and for their genocide against the Rohingya in 2017.^{xiv} ^{xv} Thus, holding the 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum in the Lotte Hotel will provide financial support to a company that is supporting and benefiting from the Myanmar military's corrupt business network.^{xvi} This would involve acting in contradiction to the recommendations of the United Nations' Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar^{xvii}, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights^{xviii} and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.^{xix}

In addition, serious questions remain over the military junta's use of international development assistance and emergency funds. For example, in 2021 **following the junta's attempted coup, US\$171 million went missing from a large loan that the International Monetary Fund had provided to help Myanmar combat the COVID-19 virus.**^{xx} The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar has warned the international community about the risk of the military junta weaponising aid.^{xxi} To invite a military junta member to take part in an international meeting under the theme "Delivering Better Together to Drive Action at the Country Level: Leveraging Effective Development Cooperation to Tackle Current Crises" while the military junta is itself engaged in mass-scale corruption, which may involve misappropriation of crisis funding, is both contradictory and egregious.

In consideration of the above, we kindly request that you ensure that the 2023 Busan Global Partnership Forum does not provide political support and false legitimacy to the Myanmar military junta.

Specifically, we are seeking your support and confirmation that for this event and all other GPEDC meetings and events:

- 1. the people of Myanmar will be represented by their democratically elected government, the National Unity Government; and
- 2. the illegitimate military junta that is currently illegally occupying many of Myanmar's national institutions of government will be banned;
- 3. Lotte Hotels will not be used as meeting venues or accommodation for guests.

This request echoes the recommendation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in Myanmar^{xxii} who urges that "Member States who support human rights, democracy, and the aspirations of the people of Myanmar publicly reject the SAC's false claim as a legitimate government and instead recognize the NUG as the legitimate representative of the people of Myanmar."

It is also in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar which conducted an in-depth analysis of businesses linked to the Myanmar military. The Mission found that real estate is a major revenue stream for the Myanmar military and strongly advised against entering into or remaining in a business relationship of any kind with the Myanmar military.^{xxiii}

Your decision to ensure that the people of Myanmar are represented by their democratically elected government, not the illegal military junta, would be consistent with the decision of your Swiss colleagues who organised the 2022 Effective Development Cooperation Summit

and revoked an invitation that arrived to Myanmar military junta members. Further, it would also be in line with the United Nations' decision to avoid allowing military junta members to represent Myanmar in the General Assembly,^{xxiv} as well as some recent decisions of ASEAN not to invite representatives of the military junta to high-level meetings.^{xxv xxvi}

The democratically elected National Unity Government can be contacted via the details provided on their <u>official website</u>. The National Unity Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has a representative in Korea, U Yan Naing Htun, who can be contacted via his <u>official Facebook page</u>. We encourage you to formulate a relationship with him, if you have not done so already. If you require further information about the current situation in Myanmar, and/or assistance in distinguishing legitimate government representatives of Myanmar from illegal military junta members, we remain at your disposal to assist in this process.

We look forward to your positive response and will continue to monitor whether your actions support the people of Myanmar or the brutal and illegitimate military junta.

Sincerely,

This letter is endorsed by **660 organisations** representing Myanmar regional and international civil society, including the 388 organisations listed below and 272 organisations which have chosen not to disclose their names.

1	5/ of Zaya State Strike
2	8888 Generation (New Zealand)
3	A-Yar-Taw People Strike
4	Action Against Myanmar Military Coup (Sydney)
5	Action Committee of Basic Education Students (ACBES)
6	Action Group for Democracy and Human Rights
7	All Aung Myay Thar San Schools Strike Force
8	All Burma Democratic Face
9	All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Monywa District)
10	All Burma Student Democratic Front - Australia Branch
11	All Young Burmese League (AYBL)
12	Alliance for Democracy in Myanmar
13	Alliance of Students' Union – Yangon (ASU-Yangon)
14	ALTSEAN-Burma
15	An Nah Podcast - conversations with Myanmar
16	Anti-coup Forces Coordination Committee (ACFCC -Mandalay)
17	Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon-AJAY
18	Anti-Myanmar Dictatorship Movement
19	Anti-Myanmar Military Dictatorship Network (AMMDN)
20	ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)
21	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
22	Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters

List of organisations:

23	Association of United Nationality in Japan (AUN)
24	Association Suisse Birmanie (ASB)
25	Association, Myanmar-Switzerland (IAMS)
26	Athan - Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
27	Auckland Kachin Community NZ
28	Auckland Zomi Community
29	Aung San Su Kyi Park, Norway
30	Aung Zay Ya (Korea)
31	Australia Burma Friendship Association, Northern Territory
32	Australia Karen Organization WA Inc.
33	Australia Myanmar Doctors, Nurses and Friends
34	Australia Myanmar Youth Alliance (AMYA)
35	Australian Burmese Muslim Organisation
36	Australian Chin Community (Eastern Melbourne Inc)
37	Australian Karen Organisation (AKO)
38	AWDO Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization (Minbu)
39	AWDO Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization (Nagphe)
40	Bamar Community Tasmania
41	Basic Education General Strike Committee (BEGSC)
42	Basic Education Students & Youths Association
43	Basic Education Worker Unions - Steering Committee (BEWU-SC)
44	Blood Money Campaign
45	BMT counselling
46	Burma Action Ireland
47	Burma Civil War Museum
48	Burma Human Rights Network
49	Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC)
50	Burma Refugee Saving Association (B.R.S.A)
51	Burmese Community - South Australia
52	Burmese Community Development Collaboration (BCDC)
53	Burmese Community Group (Manawatu, NZ)
54	Burmese Community Support Group (BCSG)
55	Burmese Friendship Association
56	Burmese Medical Association Australia (BMAA)
57	Burmese Muslim Association (BMA)
58	Burmese Rohingya Welfare Organisation New Zealand
59	Burmese Women's Union
60	Canberra Karen Association
61	CDM Medical Network (CDMMN)
62	Chanmyatharzi Township People's Strike
63	Chaung Oo Township Youth Strike Committee
64	Chin Community - South Australia
65	Chin Community of Auckland
66	Chin Community of Japan (CCJ)
67	Chin Community of Western Australia Inc.

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73	Chin Youth Organization-South Korea	
74	Chindwin (West) Villages Women Strike	
75	Citizen of Burma Award - New Zealand	
76	Civil Information Network (CIN)	
77	Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee (Monywa)	
78	Co-operative University Mandalay Students' Strike	
79	Coalition Strike Committee – Dawei	
80	Colorful Spring (ရောင်စုံနွေဦး)	
81	CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland	
82	CRPH Funding Ireland	
83	CRPH Support Group, Norway	
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91	Defend Myanmar Democracy	
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95	Depayin Women Strike	
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97	Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar	
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111	Future Light Center	

General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC) General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education (GSCBHE) General Strike Committee of Nationalities (Tavoyan) General Strike Committee of Nationalities- GSCN Generation Wave GenY For Revolution Japan Gimpo Myanmar Friends Korea Global Myanmar Spring Revolution - Japan Global Myanmar Spring Revolution Korea(GMSR) Golden Brethren's From Korea (G.B.K) Grass-root People
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HANGUKYWA-Burmese Information Networks in Korea
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Hope For Youth -Kyushu Japan
Human Rights Foundation of Monland
Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM)
India for Myanmar
Industrial Training Centre (ITC) Family Sydney
Industries Strike
Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
International Society of Myanmar Scholars and Professionals (Japan)
Japan Myanmar Future Creative Association (JMFCA)
Japan Myanmar Help Network - JMHN
Joint Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (JACDB)
Junta Denouncing Committee (Korea)
Justice 4 Myanmar - Hope & Development
Justice For Myanmar
K'cho Ethnic Association
Kachin Affairs Organizintion -Japan (KAO (Japan)
Kachin Association Australia
Kachin Association Norway
Kachin Association of Australia WA Inc.
Kachin Student Union
Kalay Township Strike Committee
Kalay Women Strike
Kansai Group Japan
Karen Community - South Australia
Karen Human Rights Group
Karen National League Japan-KNL
Karen Peace Support Network
Karen Swedish Community
Karenni Association - Norway
Karenni Civil Society Network

	Karenni Federation of Australia
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	League For Democracy in Burma (L.D.B Japan)
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	LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kyaukse Region)
174	LGBT Community Yangon LGBT Union – Mandalay
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179	Mandalar University Students' Strike
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186	Mandalay-Based University Students' Unions (MDY_SUs)
187	Matu Burma Foundation
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	Myanmar Muslim Organization - Norway Myanmar Nationalities' Support Organization - IP (MNSO)
232	Myanmar Nationalities' Support Organization – JP (MNSO)
233	Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
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237	Myanmar Student Union - US (All Burma Federation of Student Unions)
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240	Myanmar Students' Union in New Zealand
241	Myanmar Tozan Club (MTC) Myanmar Worker Wolfare Center (Korea)
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244	Myanmar Youth Organization in Korea
245	Myanmar's Youth Association Hokkaido (MYAH)
246	Myaung Youth Network

248	Myingyan Civillian Movement Committee
249	Myingyan-GZ-Group(KOREA)
250	N. B. S. G
251	National Advocacy Group - New Zealand
252	National League for Democracy (Monywa Township)
253	National League for Democracy Organizing Committee(International-Korea)
254	Nelson Myanmar Community New Zealand
255	Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform
256	Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma (ND-Burma)
257	Network of University Student Unions – Monywa
258	New Zealand Doctors for NUG
259	New Zealand Karen Association
260	New Zealand Zo Community Inc.
261	NLD Organization Committe (International) Norway
262	NLD Solidarity Association (Australia)
263	No.12 Basic Education Branch High School (Maharaungmyay) Students' Union
264	Norway Falam Community
265	Norway Matu Community
266	Norway Rawang Community
267	NSW Karenni (Kayah) Communities
268	Okinawa Myanmar Association (OMA)
269	Our Force/White Raindrops Charity Foundation
270	Overseas Mon Association. New Zealand
271	Oway Institute
272	Pa-O Youth Organization(South Korea)
273	Padauk Finland-Myanmar Association
274	Palaung National Society Japan, PNS-Japan
275	Palaw Supporting Group - Japan
276	Pale Township People's Strike Steering Committee
277	Patriotic War Vetrans of Burma (PWVB)
278	People's Hope Spring Revolution (PHSR)
279	Perth Myanmar Youth Network
280	Photographer's Supporting – Korea
281	Pocheon Myanmar NUG Youth Organization
282	PRCD (Parchan River Conservation and Development)
283	Progressive Voice
284	Punnyakari Mon National Society Japan, PMNS-Japan
285	Pwintphyu Development Organisation
286	Pyeongtaek Myanmar Community
287	Pyi Gyi Tagon Strike Force
288	Pyit Taing Htaung Social Club
289	Queensland Kachin Community (QKC)
290	Queensland Myanmar Youth Collective (QMYC)
291	Queensland Rohingya Community
292	Rangoon Scout Network - RSN

294	Red Campaign Nirvana Exhortation GroupRemonya Association of WA (Mon Community)
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321	Spring Sprouts
322	Support for Myanmar
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327	Ta'ang Women's Organization
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331	Thakhin Kodaw Mhine Peace Network (Monywa)
332	Thayat Chaung Women Strike
333	The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Monywa)
334	The Group that Overthrew the Era of Fear
335	The Institution of Professional Engineers Myanmar (IPEM)
336	The Mekong Butterfly
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340	UGRS
341	Union of Myanmar Citizen Association – Japan
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344	Victorian Burmese Care Community (VBCC)
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	We Love Mother Land-Korea
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355	Wetlet Revolution Leading Committee
356	Wetlet Twonship Women Strike
357	White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY)
358	Women Activists Myanmar (WAM)
359	Women Alliance Burma (WAB)
360	Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU)
361	Yadanar Foundation
362	Yangon Women Strike
363	Yasakyo Township People's Strike Steering Committee
364	Yaw Funding Japan
365	Yinmarpin and Salingyi All Villages Strike Committee
366	Yokohama Pamphlet Campaign - Myanmar
367	Youth for democratization of Myanmar (UDM)
368	Youth Heart Beams
369	Zo Community - South Australia
370	Zomi Association Australia Inc.
371	Zomi Christian Fellowship of Norway
372	Zomi Community - South Australia
373	Zomi Community Norway
374	Zomi Community Queensland
375	ခုနစ်စဉ်ကြယ်အဖွဲ့
376	ဂျပန်ပြည်မှတွဲလက်များ
377	စစ်အာဏာရှင် ဆန့်ကျင်ရေးကော်မတီ (ကိုရီးယား)
378	စစ်အာဏာသိမ်းမူ့ဆန့်ကျင်ရေးကော်မတီ အဲသတ်ခရီ
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380	ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် - LIOH

381	နွေဦးတော်လှန်ရေးဘာသာပေါင်းစုံကွန်ရက်
382	ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်
383	မဟာမြေပြင်
384	ရောင်နီသစ်ဆီတက်လှမ်းချီ
385	လူသားချင်းစာနာထောက်ပံ့ရေး
386	သွေးချင်းမဟာမိတ်
387	သွေးသစ္စာ
388	အနာဂတ်အလင်းရောင်

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