## Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) on the Multi-Party Democracy General Election Statement No. (9/2020)

- 1. The Union Election Commission announced on 1 July 2020 that the Multi-Party Democracy General Election for Hluttaws will be held on 8 November 2020.
- 2. Paragraph (3) in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people will be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. The right to vote freely is recognized as a basic human right of human beings and a political right as well. Accordingly, each and every one eligible to vote shall have the right to cast the vote freely in accordance with their wishes.
- 3. Conducting the multi-party general election is the essence of democracy. While voting is the responsibility of every citizen, it is essential that the results of the election fully meet the desires of the people. To enable the enjoyment of the right to vote freely, polling stations and related arrangements must be secure, as well as easily and conveniently accessible for all the able, the disabled and the elderly.
- 4. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission welcomes the Multi-Party Democracy General Election which will be held on 8 November. It is expected that the General Election would be fair, transparent, all the eligible citizens have the right to vote freely. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission shall also be observing on the ground and hopes the election results will fully meet the desires of the people.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 6 July 2020