

Statement in response to the Proposal of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar



19th January 2022

On 13 January 2022, the office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Burma/Myanmar published a statement following discussion held between the Special Envoy and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, currently chairing ASEAN and just back from a personal visit to meet with the Myanmar army's chief who heads the junta which took power in Burma/Myanmar on 1st February 2021.

The statement refers to the Special Envoy's proposal for a coherent international "humanitarian plus" approach to urgently expand the provision of humanitarian assistance to Burma/Myanmar.

Since the humanitarian needs of the country, due to the levels of violence inflicted on the whole country by the Myanmar military since the coup, The KNU, KNPP and CNF would like to express their support for the Special Envoy's proposal as below with additional demands;

1. We support for the Special Envoy's proposal for the formation of an UN-ASEAN Women, Peace and Security platform to amplify the voices of women and young people, including from hard-to-reach areas, and call for the joint creation with Myanmar's neighbours and international friends of "Safe Zones" and Humanitarian Corridors.
2. It needs to be expanded to humanitarian assistance to the people living in the mainland of Burma/Myanmar including Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni and Shan States and Sagaing and Magwe Regions, where humanitarian assistance is urgently needed.
3. A "humanitarian plus" approach is needed as the crisis in Burma/Myanmar is not just a humanitarian crisis.
4. The scale of the current humanitarian crisis is matched by the political crisis faced by the people of Burma/Myanmar, we urged the UN, the ASEAN and the international community to consider how the civilians can be protected from attacks and humanitarian support provided to the people as below;
 - a. Declare Burma/Myanmar **a military no-fly-zone** to be internationally enforced.
 - b. To declare specific areas such as villages, IDP camps, hospital, clinics and schools in need of shelter and support, as **internationally guaranteed protection of Civilians - safe zones** where there can be unhindered international humanitarian access to those most in need.
 - c. To declare a series of internationally **negotiated humanitarian corridors**, such that there would be unimpeded access, via these corridors, across borders, or from key

points within the country, for humanitarian agencies to provide support to those most in need.

The KNU, KNPP and CNF condemn the level of violence perpetrated by the Myanmar military since the February 1st coup and we commend the Special Envoy's proposal for a coherent international "humanitarian plus" approach. We commend also her idea of 'a humanitarian pause to allow safe and unhindered access to those in need. We call for the joint creation by ASEAN, Burma/Myanmar's neighbours and friends in the international community, of internationally guaranteed safe zones and humanitarian corridors. We hope that such an approach may both urgently expand the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Burma/Myanmar, and at the same time utilise the urgent need as a means to create a constructive dialogue between ASEAN and the international community with all Burma/Myanmar stakeholders.

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