

## **Overview of Paper: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding Peace Funds**

Any peace plan or external peace funds must support a multi-track process towards long-term peace in Burma. These processes are:

- First, pursue national reconciliation that will lead to a negotiated political settlement or a binding peace accord between the government and all the armed groups.
- Second, address the causes of conflict and issues affecting the peace process. These are: a) Equality and human rights for ethnic people of Burma, b) The end to human rights abuses, c) Restorative justice, d) Rule of law, e) Annuling or amending the 2008 Constitution.
- Third, support socio-economic reconstruction with sustainable development. This will entail solving problems of: a) Land confiscations, b) Environmental degradation c) Health and education

### **Key Criticisms:**

- Everything is moving too quickly
- Consultation has not been done properly
- Members of ethnic armed groups have been approached individually, rather than as an organization
- The elephant in the room (Military) is a root cause of the conflict but hasn't been addressed
- Coercion into accepting the Constitution
- No mention of natural resources
- No mention is made of the role of women in peace building
- Model villages
- IDPs and refugees

### **Recommendations:**

- We recommend that all relevant non-state groups, both inside and outside the country are consulted and not strategically ignored in favor of the government or government aligned groups. Such consultations should not be limited to major urban centers but must also be conducted in communities where people will be affected and must ensure women's participation.
- We recommend that consultations be carried out in a culturally-sensitive, gender balanced manner that allows people to express their needs freely in a safe environment, making sure that vulnerable groups are given the space to participate.
- We recommend that any peace fund implementer publish a clear consultation plan ahead of consultations, including timeline, location, consultation materials, and guide questions in Burmese, English and other relevant ethnic languages with sufficient time before consultation.

- We recommend that the goals of any peace fund are always to support national reconciliation, achieving justice, addressing the root causes of the conflict and socioeconomic reconstruction and sustainable, equitable development.
- We recommend that the indicators for scaling up a project and determining its relative success or failure are published and readily available before projects begin.
- We recommend that local groups implement pilot projects with community ownership as far as possible. Any work carried out by outsiders of the community needs to be explained in a clear manner and such information published and readily available.
- We recommend that an independent monitoring mechanism and grievance mechanism is set up before a project is initiated and its make-up and mandate published and readily available in relevant languages.
- We recommend that a risk management strategy be established before any project begins.
- We recommend that scaling up a project must only occur if the independent monitoring mechanism finds that it has met the indicators clearly defined before the pilot project begins.