

## **Statement of Civil Society Organizations on the Union Peace Convention to be held on 12th January 2016**

5 January 2016

1. Adoption of the framework for political dialogue on 16th December 2015 and announcement of the convening date for Union Peace Convention on 12th January 2016 is an act of negligence and disregard of the ongoing armed conflicts occurring in Northern Shan State and Kachin State.

2. We are seriously concerned that trying to hold political dialogue while a just, genuine and sustainable nationwide ceasefire has not been implemented and in the absence of all ethnic armed forces will bring more harm than benefit.

3. Ceasefire agreements which were revived and signed at various levels since 2011 have, in effect, been hollow and insincere; a failure which has generated tens of thousands of innocent people driven into the status of internally displaced persons and refugees.

4. Moreover, while all ethnic armed revolutionary organizations had initially agreed to and jointly participated in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement process(es), it is imperative to identify as well as analyze the factors and conditions that prevented their final signing on to the text.

5. Only by striving to tackle the said conditions can mutual respect and trust be raised, and lead to political negotiations without misgivings. In addition, only then will the conduct of political dialogue become truly supportive towards the establishment of a democratic federal union.

6. Furthermore, we are of the position that changing the concept of political dialogue based on a tripartite representation as outlined in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement into that of a pentagonal representation has the potential to weaken the focus on developing a federal union based on democracy and ethnic equality, which are central to Burma's political problem.

7. Therefore, at a time when a sustained ceasefire that is inclusive of all ethnic armed revolutionary forces is yet to materialize, we, the below-signed civil society organizations, call for the postponement of political dialogues, serious reconsideration of the representation quotas and voting quorums for political negotiations, and the inclusion of suggestions and views of those ethnic armed organizations which have not yet signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Signed by:

1. All Arakan Students and Youth Congress
2. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners – Burma
3. All Kachin Youth Union
4. Backpack Health Workers Team
5. Burma Medical Association
6. Burma Partnership
7. Burmese Women's Union
8. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
9. Karen Human Rights Group
10. Karen Students Network Group
11. Karen Women's Organization
12. Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN)
13. Kachin Women's Association – Thailand
14. Lahu Women's Organization
15. Mae Tao Clinic
16. Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma
17. Network for Democracy and Development
18. Palaung Women's Organization
19. Students and Youth Congress of Burma
20. Tavoyan Women's Union
21. Tavoyan Youth Organization
22. Women's League of Burma
23. Yaung Chi Oo Migrant Workers' Association
24. Action Committee for Democracy and Development
25. Women's Organization Network (WON)
26. Union of Karenni State Youth
27. Kachin Peace Network
28. Kachin Women's Peace Network
29. Civil Authorize Negotiate Organization (C.A.N –Org)
30. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – Myanmar (PFLAG-Myanmar)
31. Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization
32. Youth for Peace Makers
33. Co-exist
34. Shan Youth Yangon (SYY)

35. N" Centre for Education and Research Development (NCERD)
36. Kachin Canadian Association
37. BRIDGE
38. Generation Tree
39. Civil Society Network for Peace – Kachin
40. Green Network Sustainable Environment Group
41. Hands of Unity Group
42. Magway EITI Watch Group
43. ME – Community Development Center
44. Organic Agro and Farmer Affair Development Group
45. Green Future
46. Farmer Union (Magway Region)
47. Shwe Yae Nanthar Labour Union
48. Chinland Natural Resources Watch Group
49. Mwetaung Area Development Group
50. Our Future Initiative
51. Ayeyawady West Development Organization
52. Kun Gyan Gone Network
53. Community Response Group
54. Kachin State Women Network – KSWN
55. Htoi Gender and Development Foundation
56. Kachin State Women Peace Group
57. Shwe Chan Myay Network
58. Myanmar China Pipeline Watch Committee
59. Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (Mandalay Working Group)
60. Eain Da (Green Rights Organization) Shan State
61. Khu Po Kapaw
62. Kachin Refugee Committee – Malaysia
63. Shan Women Development Network (SWDN – Waimaw)
64. Kachin Women Association -KWA
65. Kanbawza Health Kindness Association (Mogaung)
66. Loiyang Bum Development Group
67. Myusha Social Development Network (Kamaing)
68. Community Work for Kachin
69. Young Kachin Writers' Club (USA)
70. Kachin Youth Organization
71. Kachin National Youth Organization

72. Ethnic Youth Network
73. Free Thinkers
74. Upper Myanmar Lawyers Network
75. Mandalay Peacekeeping Committee
76. ABCD
77. 88 – Rakine Generation Students Democratic Organization
78. 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Myeik)
79. Diverse Youth Art Platform
80. Kachin Development Group (KDG)
81. The Seagull: Human Rights, Peace and Development
82. All Burma Federation of Student Unions
83. Genuine People’s Servants (GPS)
84. Pa-O Youth Organization
85. Metta Development Foundation
86. National Network for Education Reform – NNER
87. Youth Development Network
88. Pace on Peaceful Pluralism
89. Network for Social Development and Peace (Paung)
90. Mon Young Monks Network (MYMN)
91. Shan Youth Organization Pinlaung
92. Shan Youth Organization Taunggyi
93. Southern Shan State Youth Network
94. Shwe Gas Movement
95. Social Program Aid for Civil Education (SPACE) အဖွဲ့
96. Ta’ang Students and Youth Organization (TSYO)
97. DEMO အဖွဲ့
98. Equality Myanmar
99. Human Rights Educators Network
100. National Youth Congress
101. Youth Initiative Human Rights
102. Myanmar Lawyers Network
103. အလင်းစေတမာန်စာကြည့်တိုက်
104. အလင်းပျိုးခင်းစာကြည့်တိုက်
105. လွတ်လပ်ငြိမ်းချမ်းပန်းရဲ့လမ်း လူမှုကွန်ရက်
106. ပြည်သူ့လှုပ်ရှားမှုမြှင့်တင်ရေးကွန်ရက် (MMAN)
107. စစ်တောင်းသံစဉ်လူမှုကွန်ယက်
108. လွတ်လပ်သောအရှိချင်းများအင်အားစု (မကွေးတိုင်း ၊ ငမဲ)
109. ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးနှင့် ပွင့်လင်းလူ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း (ကျောက်ဆည်)

- 110. တွံတေးလူငယ်ကွန်ယက်
- 111. စိမ်းရောင်စို (တံတားဦး)
- 112. လူငယ်ဆရာဝန်များကွန်ယက် (မြိတ်ခရိုင်)
- 113. ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံညီညွတ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ (ပြင်ဦးလွင်)
- 114. စိမ်းလန်းပြင်ဦးလွင်
- 115. ဟူးဖိုးကပေါ်အဖွဲ့အစည်း
- 116. ယုံကြည်ရာ အသိပညာပြန့်ပွားရေးအသင်း
- 117. ကလေးချစ်သူများကွန်ယက်
- 118. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်လုံးဆိုင်ရာ ကျောင်းသားသမဂ္ဂ
- 119. ဝံလက် ဒေသဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးဖောင်ဒေးရှင်း (ရခိုင်ပြည်)
- 120. All Arakan Civil Society Organizations Partnership
- 121. Paung Ku
- 122. Yaung Chi Thit
- 123. ရွှေ ခြံ မြေ ကွန်ယက်
- 124. ကွမ်းခြံကုန်းကွန်ယက်
- 125. AWDO မြစ်အနောက်ဘက်အရပ်ဘက်အဖွဲ့အစည်း (မကွေးတိုင်း၊ မင်းဘူး)
- 126. Myanmar People's Alliance

***Individual Activists:***

- 1. May Thet Kyaw
- 2. Thinzar Tun
- 3. Eait Htoo
- 4. Theik Soe Aung
- 5. Kyaw Zin Ko Ko
- 6. Win Htut Win
- 7. Aung Myo Myint Myat
- 8. Aung Naing Aye
- 9. Ko Moe Lwin (Middle Shan)
- 10. ဆလိုင်းဟာလင်းကီး - မင်းတပ်
- 11. နန့်အေးမြတ်မွန်

***Media Contact Persons:***

1. Soe Soe Nwe (Women League of Burma),+95 94500 29082
2. Thwin Lin Aung ( Genuine People's Servants GPS), +95 92507 95915
3. Ko Moe (Myanmar People's Alliance) ,+95 95228446
4. Khin Ohmar (Burma Partnership),+66 818840772
5. Kyaw Htin Aung (Union of Karenni State and Youth),+95 925 0890800