



# International Labour Conference

109th Session, 2021

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**Date:** 11 June 2021

## ► Draft resolution submitted by the Workers' group

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On 9 June 2021, the Chairperson of the Workers' group submitted to the President of the Conference a draft resolution under article 17, paragraph 2 of the Standing Orders calling for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar.

The Officers of the Conference have reviewed the draft resolution and unanimously consider that it relates to an urgent matter within the meaning of the above provision of the Standing Orders.

They therefore recommend to the Conference that it request the Selection Committee to review the draft resolution at the earliest possible opportunity and to report back to the Conference on its consideration, with any amendments thereto, by 18 June 2021.

The letter of the Chairperson of the Workers' group and the text of the draft resolution are contained in the appendix.



## Appendix

### Draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar (presented by the Workers' group)

H.E. Mr Omar Zniber  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to  
the United Nations and other International Organizations in  
Geneva  
President  
109<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference

Geneva, 9 June 2021

#### **Draft Resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar**

Your Excellency,

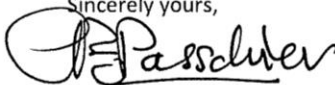
On behalf of the Workers' Group in the ILO, I am hereby submitting a draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar. The resolution is a matter of urgency as per article 17 (2) of the Conference Standing Orders.

The situation in Myanmar is fast deteriorating since the coup of 1 February 2021. The humanitarian conditions are worsening throughout the country and over 60,000 people belonging to ethnic minorities have fled their homes. Hundreds of people have been killed, including trade unionists, and many more have been violently attacked or arrested and charged under the penal code for peacefully protesting. Offices and homes of trade unionists have been raided. Union leaders have been placed on a wanted list. The passports of twenty-eight (28) Myanmar citizens have been recently declared null and void, including the passports of the General Secretary of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM), Sanda Soe and its Treasurer, Khaing Zar Aung.

These events are happening in full disregard of the decision of the March 2021 Governing Body that called upon the Military to restore democratic order and civilian rule and to respect freedom of association under ILO Convention 87 that Myanmar has voluntarily ratified. Without our urgent action, the situation will deteriorate even further.

We trust that, in light of the dramatic situation in Myanmar, the Conference Officers will consider the receivability of this Resolution positively.

I thank you in advance for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,  


Catelene Passchier  
Chairperson Workers' Group in the ILO

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,  
Meeting at its 109th Session, on XXX June 2021,

Recalling the ILO's long-standing commitment to respect of fundamental rights and democracy in Myanmar,

Expressing profound concern at the removal of the civilian Government by the military and at the developments since 1 February that resulted in arrests, intimidation, threats and acts of violence against trade unionists,

Deploring the death of over seven hundred people, including trade unionists, who were exercising their right to peaceful protest against the military coup,

Gravely concerned that the police and military raided trade union offices and homes, harassed and threatened trade unionists and their families, and placed trade union leaders on a wanted list in retaliation for their participation in strikes and demonstrations demanding a return to democracy,

Recalling that freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of opinion and expression are essential for the exercise of freedom of association and that all Member States have an obligation to apply fully, in law and in practice, the Conventions that they have voluntarily ratified,

Noting with deep concern the military's use of forced labour in areas of ongoing conflict and against ethnic minorities, particularly as conflict increases across the country,

Expressing full support for workers, unions and the general population engaged in peaceful protests and actions to demand a return to democracy,

1. Calls upon Myanmar to:

- (a) Restore democratic order and civilian rule in Myanmar, and - once the democratically elected government has been restored - to amend without delay the Civil Services Personnel Law, the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law and the Labour Organization Law, consistent with the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No.87) ratified by Myanmar;
- (b) Cease all attacks against workers and the general population, release from detention and drop any charges against trade unionists who have peacefully participated in protest activities;
- (c) Respect Convention No. 87 and ensure that workers and employers are able to exercise their freedom of association rights in a climate of freedom and security, free from violence, arbitrary arrest and detention;
- (d) Repeal any measures or orders curtailing freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

2. Recommends to constituents of the International Labour Organization that they take all possible measures and actions to press for the return to democracy in Myanmar.

3. Decides that the implementation of this resolution, along with the decisions of the 341st Session (March 2021) Governing Body, will be followed up by the Governing Body for any further consideration it may have, including in relation to the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference.