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**Panel on Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Asia Pacific Region
By Moon Nay Li (WLB)**

QUESTION 1: Highlight how women peacebuilders and mediators are mobilizing in your local contexts to address the persistent challenges in addressing WPS.

Root cause of armed conflict and CRSV

Women's League of Burma was founded in **1999** and comprises **12** different ethnic women's organizations. **Our Vision** is the federal democratic union of Burma is premised in genuine peace, social and political justice, and gender and ethnic equality.

I am pleased to share with you all here this morning to talk about the WPS situation in Burma/Myanmar and how to strengthen the WPS agenda.

It has been more than three years since the start of the brutal military-attempted coup in Burma/Myanmar, which has pushed the country into a humanitarian crisis, displacing over 2.65 million people and the military junta is ongoing committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, including conflict-related sexual violence. Decades of militarization has compounded women's experience of patriarchal violence, which is worsened during these times of conflict.

Armed Conflict and Violence: Burma/Myanmar has experienced long-standing armed conflicts in various regions/across the country. Women and girls often bear the brunt of the violence associated with these conflicts, including sexual violence, human trafficking, forced labor, and forced recruitment.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): SGBV is a significant threat to women's security in Burma/Myanmar. It includes rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and forced prostitution. Conflict and displacement exacerbate the risk of SGBV, as women and girls become more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

WLB works on WPS

Since we founded WLB, WLB and its member organizations have focused on working on women peace and security especially promoting women participating in peace, politics, and decision-making body at all levels, and closely working with conflict-affected communities and women survivors to find justice. (documentation, consultation, empowerment, and advocacy, building alliances is an important strategy of WLB). At the same time, we advocate and lobby to the stakeholders including EROs to put the WPS agenda at the political dialogue and peace process.

In 2023, we have an opportunity to develop a comprehensive WPS framework for Burma (by bottom-up approach method). The objective of the framework is to ensure clear guidelines for all democratic stakeholders to address WPS during the revolution and the interim period; a framework to collectively assess the women peace and security situation in Burma/Myanmar,

including the opportunities, threats and implications. It also called for inclusive and meaningful participation of women.

QUESTION 2: What are your practical recommendations within the context of the Beijing+30 Review, & 25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, for priorities, strategies, and opportunities for strengthening commitments and action to advance the WPS agenda – at your local context, for the Asia-Pacific region, and/or globally?

Advancing WPS agenda

UNSC Resolution 1325 reaffirms the important role of women and urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all peace and security efforts. The WPS resolutions are a critical instrument to advance women's equal participation in peace negotiations, democracy building, and transitional justice mechanisms, which is essential for the future peace and stability of Burma/Myanmar. Yet, the WPS agenda has no accountability mechanism for UN member states to monitor the implementation of the WPS resolutions.¹

To promote and protect the rights and well-being of women in conflict-affected areas. It recognizes that women and girls are extremely affected by armed conflict and that their active participation in peacebuilding and conflict transformation is crucial for sustainable peace and security.

It is also important to strengthen local/domestic justice mechanisms and strengthening international accountability (Strongly and immediately take action on the person who committed intentional crimes, do not give any legitimacy to the military junta)

- Budgeting on implementing WPS framework and Directly support to women groups and local CSO

- Advance the WPS framework by enhancing its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system to track progress, identify challenges, and gather valuable insights for continuous improvement and evidence-based decision-making.

WPS Framework

As our Overall Goal: Engage, empower, protect, and support women and girls to achieve sustainable, inclusive, and lasting peace in Burma/Myanmar

Strategy 1: Women's meaningful participation in all phases and structures of conflict-transforming and peacebuilding efforts

Strategy 2: Prevention and protection of women and improved access to assistance programs

Strategy 3: Better understanding, awareness raising, and enhanced collaboration with stakeholders

Strategy 4: Improved institutionalization, strengthened accountability and capacity

It is a critical time to capture the reality of women's experience in Burma/Myanmar, and the escalation of GBV during times of conflict. Even difficult situation, WLB and its women networks are strongly collaboration in working for WPS and gender equality.