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WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

9 December, 2024

Political Declaration to commemorate

the 25th Anniversary of the Women's League of Burma (WLB)

The Women's League of Burma is a political organization formed by women from different ethnicities and diverse political backgrounds in Burma. We work towards shared goals of the advancement of the status of women, human rights, democracy, peace, justice and establishing a federal democratic union.

We believe that genuine peace is possible only when we establish a genuine federal democracy, in which every citizen enjoys basic human rights, and in which ethnic and gender equality are both guaranteed.

For 25 years, we have worked for our prescribed goals and advocated steadfastly for change in Burma. As a women's political organization, we have participated in constitution drafting processes at both Union and state levels. As such, WLB prominently represented women's voices in the Federal Constitution Drafting and Coordinating Committee (FCDCC). Furthermore, our representatives have attended the high-level summits of the Ethnic Resistance Organizations (EROs) that were held in the liberated area and also participated in the Union Peace Conferences (UPC) that was held inside the country

With regards to the civil war and armed conflicts in Burma, including the Burma military's use of sexual violence, and all the War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, committed by the Burma military, we have consistently advocated for justice and accountability. WLB has urged international communities, including the United Nations Security Council, to hold military leaders accountable at the International Criminal Court (ICC). In collaboration with the Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) in 2010, we conducted the mock International Tribunal in New York City, USA and demand the referral of the military dictator to ICC for his responsibility for crimes against women and the people of Burma.

Additionally, we have also worked closely with local women organizations and networks in Burma who have common interests and objectives to address gender equality, eliminate gender-based violence, and all forms of discrimination against women, and increase participation and inclusion of women in decision-making at every leadership level.

Since the military coup in February 2021, WLB has actively participated in the resistance movement and the struggle for federal democracy. WLB has been participating in the National

Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) since the formation of the umbrella body, has been at the forefront as a council member, and ratified the Federal Democracy Charter (FDC) in January 2022.

At every stage in this long struggle, WLB remains committed to make sure women's participation in these crucial political processes and continues to advocate for gender equality in all constitutional frameworks.

In short, the WLB has been the essential part of every process to build a genuine democratic and federal union in Burma for the past 25 years and, on this anniversary of our founding, we vow to continue to work for the unfinished revolution that will bring democracy, federalism, and gender equality to our country.

Along our stated efforts, the WLB would like to reiterate the following political principles:

Principle #1: Gender equality must be put in the main objectives of the current political processes.

Principle #2: Women's equal participation in all political decision making must be guaranteed by effective gender quotas in all future constitutions and laws at all levels of government (union, state, and local) and in all branches of government (legislative, executive, and judicial) to assure at least 30% women.

Principle #3: Human rights for all persons including the minority people must be recognized and protected. (civil and political, as well as social, economic and cultural rights)

Principle #4: The right to equality has to be a right to equality of outcome (substantive equality), not just a formal equality.

Principle #5: In the envisioned federal system for Burma, all constituent states of the Union must have equal political status and full self-determination.

Principle #6: Burma must have a democratic system of government, a system that acknowledges that the sovereignty derives from the people in all the respective states.

Principle #7: All revolutionary forces who are fighting against the military dictatorship must faithfully observe human rights and must refrain from committing sexual and gender based violence and all kinds of violence against women

Principle #8: All groups who are fighting for democracy and federalism must commit to an inclusive and collaborative process of post-war constitutional arrangement that includes of drafting the transitional constitution.

Principle #9: Measures must be taken to address the past with the goal to ensure justice for those affected by war and conflicts.

The WLB believes that these principles capture the most fundamental elements required for a future peaceful, just, federal democratic union of Burma. We are also confident that these

principals capture a broad consensus among the organizations struggling against the military dictatorship. Therefore, we believe we have a solid foundation for building a better future. We hereby invite all organizations and individuals who are resisting the military dictatorship and authoritarianism to join us.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with all forces and people of good faith who are dedicated to democracy, equality, justice and federalism for a long lasting and sustainable peace in our country.