COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

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International Day of Democracy 2022

IPU' Panel Discussion: The IPU Universal Declaration on Democracy 25 years on, has the declaration stood the test of time?

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By Chairman Mr. Aung Kyi Nyunt of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu, Myanmar

Excellency, Mr. President

Honourable, Mr. Secretary General

Governing Council

Esteemed Speakers

Parliamentary Colleagues

IPU Family

Mingalarpar!

On behalf of the CRPH and through it all MPs and those we represent, deep appreciation for giving me the floor to comment on the perilous situation in Myanmar.

I begin by responding to the IPU's title question, "Has the IPU Declaration on Democracy stood the test of time?" The answer can only be yes.

People defend democracy when it is under threat. The peoples of Myanmar are doing that each and every day, at great risk to their liberty and lives.

Today is a day when we celebrate democracy and acts as a reminder to do this, every day of the year.

We parliamentarians can best do this in our parliaments, by ensuring that the five core values articulated through the IPU, are enshrined in all parliamentary architecture.

We the CRPH an E-parliament strive to inculcate these five core values.

1. Representative we are, having been elected on November 2020 in a free and fair election and we respond to our constituents needs, indeed in extreme conditions.

2. Open and transparent we are, having convened the Union Parliament four times, and active in all forms of media, given many of us had to flee and face horrors if captured, with many MPs having suffered this fate.

3. Accessible, accountable and effective we are in that we maintain our duties as representatives, legislators and provide oversight to the NUG and its administration.

Myanmar has a tradition of self-correction, expressed in parliament as continuous improvement. The IPU states the only political system with capacity for self-correction is a democratic one. This alone makes democracy a fundamental governance principle.

The very first civilian government since 1962 led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi conducted a free and fair election in 2020 November with a diverse array of candidates.

Dear colleagues,

19 months ago the military junta under Min Aung Hlaing attempted an illegal and failing coup.

19 months for Min Aung Hlaing's brutal military junta to murder 2,234 people, some children, seize and detain over 11,000 people, subject many to interrogation, rape, torture, military courts to impose lengthy sentences under the orders of one, man Min Aung Hlaing.

He alone has brought our country to its knees. It is now an economic basket-case while he plunders state owned resources.

Many more have fled their homes, and thousands are displaced in jungle and on the border, due to cruel actions by the military junta, that includes aerial bombings.

Several state leaders and democracy activists including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi are languishing in goals, facing trumped up charges.

We are defending and maintaining democracy while we are facing serious and heinous human rights violations.

The military junta is now trying to hold an election designed to have them hold, but not win power. This election cannot be recognised. It is an assault on the people and an assault on democracy.

Dear parliamentary colleagues,

I on behalf of all elected Members of the Myanmar Parliaments and the people we represent seek your continued support and I ask you on this auspicious day to one big thing.

1. Pass a resolution in your respective parliaments that recognises the CRPH as the legitimate and lawful parliament that it indeed is; and in the same resolution that you will form your Myanmar parliamentary friendship group with the CRPH.

Please support us in our work to reclaim and rebuild our democracy, so that civilian government prevails and we can create the constitutional federal democracy we crave to bring peace to our many peoples.

Thank you IPU for all that you stand for and act upon.

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