Model letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We [name of the union] strongly condemn the military coup in Myanmar staged by General Min Aung Hlaing on the 1st of February. The military has killed more than 900 people, arrested 5,000 civilians and dismissed 300,000 workers for joining the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), and over 175,000 persons have been displaced. The coup and the third wave of Covid-19 have halved the income of 83% of the families, and more than 25 million people in Myanmar are now living in absolute poverty. The international community must take urgent action against the military coup to end the human rights catastrophe in Myanmar.

We fully support the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and the trade union movement in Myanmar to end the military rule and restore the civilian government elected in November 2020.

The [international trade union movement](https://www.ituc-csi.org/myanmar-national-unity-government) is the global democratic force that first called on the international community to formally recognise the National Unity Government ([NUG](https://www.nugmyanmar.org/en/)) of the Republic of Myanmar established on 16 April by the democratic parliamentarians elected in the 8th November 2020 elections. Workers, through the CTUM, supported the NUG’s tripartite delegation to the [109th International Labour Conference](https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/reports/texts-adopted/WCMS_806089/lang--en/index.htm) (ILC), which included U Maung Maung, president of the CTUM (Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar) and member of the National Unity Consultative Committee (NUCC); the NUG consultative body; and Mrs Sandar Soe, CTUM general secretary, elected by the ILO Governing Body to represent the voices of the working people of Myanmar and the civilian democratic government they have chosen.

The Myanmar Labour Alliance, which includes the CTUM and 16 trade unions and labour organisations, supports the NUG in building an inclusive governance structure and process toward a democratic, federal Myanmar. The NUG, made up of all the ethnic representatives, is deliberating a new federal democratic constitution and amending the labour and citizenship laws. The NUG is committed to respecting the international obligations of Myanmar before the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court regarding the human rights violations of the Rohingya people.

At the 109th ILC Conference, workers succeeded in blocking the military-led State Administration Council (SAC) from representing the State of Myanmar, in alignment with the interim decisions of the 73rd and 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA), the World Health Conference and the 42nd Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization. A decision will be reviewed again at the 75th UNGA in September. The SAC reacted with escalated military raids of trade union offices and more arrests, including most recently the arrest of Thet Hnin Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Industry Craft and Service-Trade Unions' Federation (MICS-TUsF), on 13th July.

Despite the arms embargo led by some countries, the military is still financed to buy ammunition to kill civilians instead of purchasing Covid-19 vaccines for the people. The dire human rights situation in Myanmar has been exploited by the military in order to continue dividing the member states of the UN, which are bound by the resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the UNGA and the ILC, which clearly state that the wishes of the Myanmar people expressed in the electoral results last November must be respected, and that democracy must be restored in Myanmar.

sophie@babel-one.eu

We urge you to support, at the next UNGA in September, the call of the [UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27284&LangID=E) to officially recognise the NUG and its work, and impose a global arms embargo on Myanmar. Recognition of the NUG by individual governments worldwide, and at the UNGA in particular, is crucial in order to mount pressure on the military junta to stop the violent repression of the people, to return power to the civilian democratic government, to facilitate access to the humanitarian aid inside Myanmar, to resolve the Rohingya issue, and to state firm support of the will of the Myanmar people.

Our government should promote a concerted effort of bilateral recognition at the international level that has already been started with the Czech Republic and supported by democratic parliaments in a growing number of Western and Asian countries.

We urge you to organise a meeting with the NUG and the trade union representatives of the NUCC for a full picture of its work. The [name of your union] demands a meeting with you and cabinet ministers to discuss this matter.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,