

POLITICAL MONITOR No. 9

OFFICIAL MEDIA

GOVERNMENT AND ETHNIC ARMED ORGANISATIONS FINALIZE NATIONAL CEASEFIRE ACCORD

The 7th round of peace talks to discuss the nationwide ceasefire agreement between the Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) was held from 17 to 22 March. After taking a recess, the government negotiators and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) completed the 7th round of talks on 30 March to finalize the draft of the national ceasefire accord.

On the 7th day of negotiations, the government's Union Peacemaking Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, representing 16 ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), concluded the talks on the prospective peace accord without leaving any points unresolved, peace negotiators said at a press conference. The single text for the national ceasefire accord will be approved with the signing of a negotiation completion agreement between the two sides. From the UPWC side, it can be said that the government is ready to sign the national ceasefire accord following the completion of negotiations with the ethnic armed groups' negotiating team, said senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre U Hla Maung Shwe.

The signing of the accord will follow an ethnic conference likely to be held next month, with a specific date yet to be arranged, said U Nai Hong Sar and Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong of the NCCT. We can say the NCCT's commitment to finalizing the draft represents 95 percent completion, but it is required to hold the ethnic summit for reaching 100 percent, U Nai Hong Sar added. The shared goal throughout the series of talks, which faced many obstacles, is to reach a national ceasefire deal which is the first stage of the political dialogue roadmap, NCCT peace negotiators said at the press conference, expressing the willingness of all ethnic armed groups to sign the truce deal. The two sides will clarify all points in the accord before inking the negotiation completion agreement, they said.¹

DEFENCE SERVICES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PROMISES TO SUPPORT ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the Tatmadaw will work hand in hand with election organisers and the people to ensure a successful ballot in

¹ Peace talks on nationwide ceasefire agreement resume – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-18-red.pdf> (GNLM) 18 March 2015 (p. 1) / Seventh meeting between UPWC and NCCT contributes to ceasefire agreement – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-19-red.pdf> (GNLM) 19 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)/ Agreement reached on most differences over NCA – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-20-red.pdf> (GNLM) 20 March 2015 (p. 1)/ Ceasefire talks between govt, ethnic armed groups proceed smoothly on Day 4 – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-21-red.pdf> (GNLM) 21 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)/ National ceasefire negotiators move closer to deal despite unresolved points – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-22-red.pdf> (GNLM) 22 March 2015 (p. 1)/ Nationwide ceasefire talks in recess until 30 March following conclusion of Day 6 – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-23-red.pdf> (GNLM) 23 March 2015 (p. 1)/ National ceasefire talks end with agreement on draft accord – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-31-red.pdf> (GNLM) 31 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)

November, warning that the armed forces will not tolerate any attempts to disrupt voting. “Any disturbances to the stability of the State and prevalence of the rule of law, any armed pressure or any threats for voting, won’t be allowed in the General Election,” he said at the 70th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade in Nay Pyi Taw. He also said the general election scheduled for November would be “a landmark for the implementation of democracy in Myanmar.”

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on ethnic armed groups to solve their conflicts with the government through negotiation based on a spirit of brotherhood and trust. He said the Tatmadaw would not tolerate any attempts to turn political disagreements into armed conflict. He also urged the ethnic people to work with each other to create a harmonious and interdependent community through negotiation. If ethnic armed groups have a true desire for peace, they should keep their promises and solve problems caused by political issues through political means, the commander-in-chief said. He also promised that the Tatmadaw will make efforts for integration of the national peoples, national reconciliation and for peace without fail, as the Tatmadaw is tasked with defending the Union. “The Tatmadaw is doing its duties, risking lives and limbs of military officers and Tatmadawmen (soldiers) for stability in border areas,” he said.²

KIO HOLDS TALKS WITH MYANMAR LEADERSHIP

President Thein Sein met the leaders of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 March. In his opening remarks, President Thein Sein stressed the important role of key players in the peace-making process and called for ending the decades-long armed conflict through negotiations. The 8-member KIO delegation met the President one day before the 7th round of peace talks between the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and the government’s Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC) in Yangon. General Gun Maw of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) said, the 7th round of talks between the NCCT and UPWC will hear the view points of all NCCT members, and both sides will negotiate the timeframe of the ongoing nationwide ceasefire process. He also urged the population to be optimistic about the ongoing peace-making process, pledging to work until it is successful. The KIO delegation also held talks with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.³

TATMADAW AND KOKANG GROUP CONTINUE CLASHES

Clashes between government troops and Kokang forces took place on Point 1219 hilltop to the east of Laukkai on 15 March. Similarly, while Tatmadaw columns were clearing the route from Parsinkyaw village to BP-137 on 16 March, fighting broke out between government forces and Kokang groups from Point 1468. At 3 am on 18 March, Tatmadaw columns drove away 6 Kokang groups trying to launch attacks on Laukkai. Tatmadaw columns also captured 5 hilltops with the aid of airstrikes, forcing the Kokang forces to withdraw to the east of the region. Tatmadaw columns also tried to recapture Point 1468 hilltop from Kokang troops since 17 March.

Fierce fighting between the two sides also broke out on 19 March between government forces and Kokang group in Laukkai region, with government forces seizing the strategically important point. After taking Point 1479, army columns continued their attacks on Point 1564 to the east of Point 1479. Army battalions also confronted the enemy at a hill located to the north of Shin Khot Htan village overlooking the road leading to Border Post No. 132. Kokang troops also attacked Point 1468

² Defence Services Commander-in-Chief promises to support elections in November –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-28-red.pdf> (GNLM) 28 March 2015 (p. 1)

³ KIO holds talks with President, takes new step to achieving peace –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-17-red.pdf> (GNLM) 17 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)/
Internal conflicts cost lives of national brethren, says senior general –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-17-red.pdf> (GNLM) 17 March 2015 (p. 3)/
UPWC, KIO commit to achieving nationwide ceasefire –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-16-red.pdf> (GNLM) 16 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)

hill which is under the control of the army. Tatmadaw men bravely repelled the enemy. The Myanmar Air Force also attacked Kokang group, taking a stronghold near villages to the north of Kongyan town.

Due to the on-going clashes between the Tatmadaw and Kokang group, 5 Chinese nationals were killed and 8 injured during the incidents which occurred in Dashulsansu Village, Lin Chang District, Yunnan Province on 13th March 2015. Regarding the said incidents, direct contacts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and also the Ministries of Defense of Myanmar and China have being made to investigate the issue. A press statement regarding the death of 5 Chinese nationals was issued on 15 March. *(Please see Appendix A for full statement of the Press Release).*

During the fighting, Tatmadaw columns seized 3 bodies of Kokang troops, 2 launchers, 6 small arms and ammunition. A total of 13 officers and other ranks sacrificed their lives for the country and 28 others were injured during the clashes.⁴

GOV'T TROOPS CLASH WITH KIA DURING OPERATIONS AGAINST TIMBER TRAFFICKING

Government troops fought against KIA (Kachin) forces which are protecting timber traffickers in Bhamo district, Kachin state, during the three-day operations. During training session of Myanmar air force on 20 March, fighter jets detected a convoy of truck carrying trafficked logs and informed to the military columns. Army columns were fired by KIA (Kachin) forces on 21 March, and clashes continued to 23 March. With assistance of aerial attacks, government troops cleared the ethnic armed forces from their positions and seized a total of 27 logging trucks and timbers after nine clashes, including one airplane attack. Military is continuing operations to control timber trafficking in northern Myanmar.⁵

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE DISCUSSES AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULES 1 AND 2 OF 2008 CHARTER

The Myanmar Constitutional Review Committee (MCRC) met on 26 March to discuss Schedules 1 and 2 of the 2008 Charter, according to officials. Chairman of the (MCRC) and Union Minister U Soe Thane, stressed power-sharing among regions and states, putting emphasis on resource sharing given current situations. Vice of the (MCRC) and Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein stated that President Thein Sein has called for speedy amendments to the two tables, which involves changing and rewriting existing laws by respective legislative bodies. Similarly, Vice-Chair of the (MCRC) Minister U Hla Tun also pointed out the need to release notifications, rules and regulations for prescribed laws, put forward laws to be amended to Hluttaw, and enact necessary new law.⁶

UEC ISSUES RULES FOR ELECTION MONITORING TEAMS

The Union Election Commission (UEC) on 19 March issued Notification No.2/2015 of its requirements for members of international election monitoring teams. According to the Notification, members of international monitoring teams are required to respect the sovereignty of Myanmar, the fundamental rights of citizens and the authority of the UEC, sub-commissions and staff of voting

⁴ Tatmadaw launches attacks on Point 1468 hilltop seized by Kokang insurgents – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-17-red.pdf> (GNLM) 17 March 2015 (p. 3)/
Tatmadaw columns capture insurgent-held hilltops – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-19-red.pdf> (GNLM) 19 March 2015 (p. 3)/
Army captures strategic hill in Laukkai area – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-20-red.pdf> (GNLM) 20 March 2015 (p. 3)

⁵ Gov't troops clash with KIA during operations against timber trafficking – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-25-red.pdf> (GNLM) 25 March 2015 (p. 3)

⁶ Constitutional Review Committee discusses amendments to Schedules 1 and 2 of 2008 Charter – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-27-red.pdf>(GNLM) 27 March 2015 (p. 3)

booths. In addition, they must also abide by the instructions of the UEC and police forces of states and regions, security personnel and authorities. Furthermore, members of monitoring teams are prohibited from having bias toward state authorities, political parties, candidates and election issues and cannot support or oppose a political party or candidate. While allowed to ask questions concerning the election; they cannot hinder the process and must wear their accreditation cards issued by the UEC. Only those in charge of the teams can release their assessments and opinions to the media, after submitting their findings and advice to the UEC. Team members are required to be professional and to respect other people and their customs. Monitoring teams are responsible for training their staff on the ethics, rules and regulations. They must obey the conditions of their visas and follow the advice of security personnel for their own safety. The UEC can decide to revoke accreditation if the rules are breached, according to the notification. *(Please see Appendix B for full statement of the Notification No. 2/2015 issued by the Union Election Commission).*⁷

LOWER HOUSE COMMITTEES DISCUSS NATIONAL EDUCATION BILL

Committees of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) held a coordination meeting on national education bill at the building of Lower House on 30 March. At the meeting, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann urged members of parliament to create laws which can actually benefit the country and people. He also said that repercussions of protest against National Education Law intensified after holding four-party talks on solving this problem, and disputes have not totally dissolved until now. Dr Chan Nyein, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee, and U T Khun Myat, Chairman of Bill Committee, discussed the amendment process of the bill. The meeting was attended by chairmen, secretaries and members of commissions of Pyithu Hluttaw.⁸

HLUTTAW SESSIONS – Highlights

Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) sessions

The 12th Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 33rd day meeting on 24 March and discussed issues related to the national education amendment bill.

MPs U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State's No.6 Constituency and MP U Min Oo of the Bago Region constituency No.7, said that **the national education amendment bill stating that the education law must pave the way for a better education system.** Similarly, MP U Saw Ohn, who represents No.9 Constituency in Mon State, said **education must be reconstructed for the country to become modern and prosperous.**⁹

The 12th Regular Session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 34th day meeting on 25 March and discussed the following questions and issues related to bill on the amending the National Education Bill.

MP U Nu of Yangon Region constituency 10, suggested **the word pre-school in Myanmar language should not be shortened in the law and fully defined the term of preschool that aims to nurture physical, mental and moral practices of the children before proceeding to learn higher levels. He also urged substitution of 'mother ethnic language' with 'individual ethnic language' in the bill, saying his support for the paragraphs that mention special programmes, teaching aids and methodologies for the disabled persons.** Defence Services

⁷ UEC issues rules for election monitoring teams –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-20-red.pdf> (GNLM) 20 March 2015 (p. 2)/
Code of Conduct for International Observers –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-21-red.pdf> (GNLM) 21 March 2015 (p. 2)

⁸ Pyithu Hluttaw committees discuss national education bill –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-31-red.pdf> (GNLM) 31 March 2015 (p. 3)

⁹ Amyotha Hluttaw MPs urge education amendment bill must serve national interests –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-25-red.pdf> (GNLM) 25 March 2015 (p. 2)

personnel representatives Major Aung Ko Min suggested **inserting the words ‘all-round systematic thinking’ to replace ‘freedom of thinking’ which he assumed the latter would lead to wrong thinking for the children.** MP U Ohn Ti of Rakhine State constituency 10, said changes of word in the bill. Members of the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Bill Committee and representatives who **supported student protests against the National Education Law also discussed details for the amendment bill.**¹⁰

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) sessions

The 12th Regular Session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) held its 30th day meeting on 20 March and discussed issues related to the loan from EXIM Bank of China for the Myanmar Police Force.

- Defence Services representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan tabled a motion on 20 March in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw **calling for the parliament and the central government to revise laws on the sharing of legislative power, resources and taxes with regions and states. He stressed decentralization in those three areas, saying that regions and states have been unable to make use of their rights provided in the constitution and strive for their own development over the past four years. Power sharing, resource sharing and tax sharing will enable regions, states and self-administered areas to rely on themselves and benefit their people,** he said. The Speaker welcomed the motion, saying it would pave the way for national reconciliation and peace if the parliament and central government acted on it, urging parliamentarians to take the motion into consideration in studying and amending the constitution. Deputy Minister at the President’s Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win, said the central government is engaged in discussions with regions, states and self-administered areas with respect to the sharing of power, resources and taxes and that steps will be taken to amend existing laws and write new laws as necessary.¹¹

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UWSA SNUBS CEASEFIRE TALKS

The National Democratic Alliance Army – Eastern Shan State (NDAA-ESS), the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA), the All Burma Students Democratic Force (ABSDF) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K) attended the 7th nationwide ceasefire meeting between the Myanmar government and ethnic armed organizations at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon beginning on 17 March 17 as observers. The UN Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Myanmar Vijay Nambiar and China’s Special Representative on Asian Affairs Wang Yingfan also attended the meeting as observers.

“Under a plan written by MP Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Working Committee, we invited the UWSA to attend the ceasefire talk as an observer. But, they didn’t attend. We don’t know why they were absent,” said an official from the Myanmar Peace Centre. Some attendees noted that the UWSA negotiated with the government over 26 years ago, and it is possible that their lack of interest in the ceasefire process is the result of a better deal they enjoy with the government. Delegates on the government side and the EAOs side also said there were many differences between various armed groups, including the UWSA and NDAA. These differences

¹⁰ MPs discuss wording changes in National Education amendment bill – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-26-red.pdf> (GNLM) 26 March 2015 (p. 2)

¹¹ Sharing power, resources, taxes critical to states, regions, self-administered areas: MP – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-21-red.pdf> (GNLM) 21 March 2015 (p. 2)

are the biggest challenges to implementing the nationwide ceasefire, they said. Participation of armed groups is very important for the nationwide ceasefire talk, said the NCCT delegates.¹²

NLD EXPELS 20,000 WHITE CARD HOLDERS FROM PARTY

The National League for Democracy (NLD) has expelled more than 20,000 temporary identification card holders from the party's membership, purging noncitizens from its ranks in compliance with a legislative mandate.

The expulsion of the so-called "white card holders"—described as such because their temporary identity document is white—was prompted by a change to legislation dictating the operational bounds of Burma's political parties and follows a ruling by President Thein Sein stripping the group of suffrage last month. The amendments to the law restrict party membership to holders of full citizenship in Burma, precluding associate citizens, naturalized citizens and white card holders.

"Since the NLD has more members, the party has asked for an extension of the deadline to submit the [updated] list. Actually, the list was supposed to be submitted [to the Union Election Commission] by the end of January," said NLD Central Executive Committee member Nan Khin Htwe Myint.

Deputy Director of the Union Election Commission (UEC) Hla Maung Cho said many of Burma's registered political parties had already submitted similar lists, which the UEC is checking against previous membership rosters. The UEC official said he could not disclose how many people in total were expunged from the memberships of the approximately 70 registered political parties in Burma. "Some parties submitted that they do not have white card holders on their membership lists. We will verify that," he said.

Nan Khin Htwe Myint said the NLD had been granted a deadline extension but was required to submit its updated list this month. She added that parties were expected to vet their own rosters, with the UEC serving in an overseeing role. Parties found noncompliant risk potential deregistration by the UEC.

Parliament voted in September to amend Article 4(a) and Article 10(a) of the Political Parties Registration Law, which cover who is eligible to found and join a party, respectively. The changes stripped both provisions of previous wording that allowed any "[full] citizen, associate citizen and naturalized citizen or white card holders" to participate in party politics, restricting eligibility to full citizens only.

The disenfranchisement of white card holders has included revoking their right to vote in a constitutional referendum slated for May, and a general election due late this year, because of a presidential ruling last month that will see the cards expire on 31 March. In addition to the loss of suffrage, current white card holders will likely see their ability to travel around the country curbed due to a lack of identity document.

The government has said white card holders will have the opportunity to obtain a level of citizenship by undergoing the national verification process, an ill-articulated procedure that involves applicants proving that their ancestry was born in the country. Many of the country's white card holders are Rohingya Muslims, a persecuted minority largely based in western Arakan (Rakhine) State. Burma's

¹² UWSA snubs ceasefire talks – http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9363:uwsa-snubs-ceasefire-talks&catid=32:politics&Itemid=354 (Eleven News Media)

Immigration Minister Khin Yi told local news media that there were an estimated 700,000-800,000 white card holders countrywide.¹³

ANALYSIS

Efforts to get a Nationwide Ceasefire have finally yielded an NCA draft. While both sides have made concessions and reached consensus on most terms of the NCA, they have failed to reach a firm conclusion on key issues such as a Military Code of Conduct, Ceasefire Monitoring mechanisms, interim arrangements for troop allocation, taxation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process and a security sector reform process. While weak on military matters, the NCA draft is seen as opening the door to beginning a Political Dialogue which is the goal of the ethnic armed organizations.

The agreement on the draft NCA is indeed a positive development, but before it can be signed, an ethnic summit is necessary for the EAO leadership to agree to the draft negotiated by the NCCT. Much can happen to prevent the signing such as serious battles still continue in some areas of the Kachin and Shan States. And it therefore is crucial for both sides to end and prevent potential clashes from reoccurring.

More importantly, government forces will need to adopt a more restrained approach in implementing military operations against EAOs in the light of the elections slated for later this year. Continuation of military campaigns prior to the elections can create distrust but more importantly can destabilize the elections and jeopardize the on-going national reconciliation process.

This once again raises the need and importance of implementing key mechanisms such as joint Ceasefire Monitoring and a Codes of Conduct. Under such circumstances, meetings and talks between the government and the EAOs will need to continue even after the signing of the NCA.

¹³ NLD Expels 20,000 White Card Holders from Party – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/nld-expels-20000-white-card-holders-from-party.html> (the Irrawaddy) 17 March 2015

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE

It is learnt that five Chinese nationals were killed and eight injured during the incidents occurred with Kokang insurgent group in Dashulsansu Village, Lin Chang District, Yunnan Province on 13th March 2015. Regarding the said incidents, direct contacts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and also the Ministries of Defense of Myanmar and China have being made to investigate. Primary investigation on this incident have been made by the Myanmar Armed Forces and it is found that Myanmar Armed Forces has been instructed to maintain their operations within the territory of Myanmar respecting the territorial integrity and the friendly relations between Myanmar and China and they are fully obligated to the instruction. However, we would like to express our deep sorrow for death and injuries of Chinese nationals living in border areas as a consequence. A delegation from the Myanmar Armed Forces and the local authorities from China and another delegation led by responsible officials from the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Province and the Consul-General of Myanmar in Kunming are making visits to the area where the incidents occurred. Necessary investigation in detail will be continued. Thorough investigation will also be made whether Kokang insurgent group is involved in this incident to have negative impact on the friendship between Myanmar and China and to create instability along the border area. The two Ministries of Foreign Affairs are co-operating closely through diplomatic channels and the two defense forces also make close collaboration in maintaining the peace and stability of the border area by upholding the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: 15 March 2015¹⁴

Appendix B:

FULL TEXT OF UNION ELECTION COMMISSION NOTIFICATION NO.2/2015

In exercising the powers conferred by Section 90 of the Election Law, the Union Election Commission has issued the following Code of Conduct for Observers for the election to be observed by stakeholders for conducting the election in free and fair manner.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

- (1) Every person who participates in election observation as a member of an organization or International Election Observation Mission must read and understand this Code of Conduct and shall sign a pledge annexed to this Code.
- (2) Observers shall respect the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as well as the fundamental rights and freedom of its people.
- (3) Observers shall adhere to the laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and respect the authority of the Union Election Commission, sub-commissions and its election officials.
- (4) Observers shall follow instructions issued from the Union Election Commission and State/Region authorities, including police forces, security officials and maintain a respectful attitude towards them.
- (5) Strict political impartiality shall be maintained by Observers at all times during election process. They shall not exhibit any bias or preference with regard to national authorities, political parties and candidates as well as any issue related to the process of elections.

¹⁴ Press Release –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-16-red.pdf> (GNLM) 16 March 2015 (p. 1 & 3)

- (6) Observers shall not conduct or participate in any activity that may generate an impression of favouring or opposing any political party or a candidate.
- (7) The Observer will have right to ask any question and to clear any query but they will not obstruct directly or indirectly in any pre-election, election and postelection process.
- (8) Observers shall display their official identification badges, issued by the Union Election Commission and respected Sub-Commissions, at all times and shall present it to electoral officials and other national authorities when requested.
- (9) Observers shall ensure that all their observations are impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy
- (10) Individual Observer shall not make any personal comments about his/her observation or conclusion on the election process to the media. Observation Organizations or groups should ensure that only their authorized persons give comment about the election process.
- (11) Observer Organizations may share their findings, methodology and recommendations with the Union Election Commission.
- (12) Observers shall maintain proper personal behaviour and respect others, including exhibiting sensitivity for culture and customs of the country and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times.
- (13) All organizations requesting accreditation from the Union Election Commission shall be responsible for education and training of their individual observers in electoral laws and procedures, including this Code.
- (14) The Observers intending to visit Myanmar shall submit their visa applications well in time, according to the rules laid down by relevant authorities of the Government of Myanmar. No observer shall stay in Myanmar beyond the duration of granted visa.
- (15) Observers shall comply with advisories that may be issued by the Government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Myanmar.
- (16) In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Union Election Commission of Myanmar reserves the right to withdraw observer accreditation of an individual Observer or an Observer Mission. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Union Election Commission of Myanmar.

Chairman
Union Election Commission
Myanmar.¹⁵

¹⁵ Code of Conduct for International Observers –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs21/GNLM2015-03-21-red.pdf> (GNLM) 21 March 2015 (p. 2)