
POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 14

OFFICIAL MEDIA

PRESIDENT THEIN SEIN ANNOUNCES THAT HARDLINERS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IN SPEECH AT COORDINATION MEETING

Unofficial

At a 2-day work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw from 11-12 May 2012, President U Thein Sein told participants that “conservatives who do not have a reformist mindset will be left behind” while the country is on its path to change. He also admitted that certain lessons must be adopted from the by-elections which showed a real public desire for national development. “According to the experience of the by-elections, the public clearly showed that they want change and they no longer like the performance of the governing bodies in each administrative level,” he said.¹

Official

In his opening address, the President said that since taking office the new government has been undertaking a series of reforms covering national solidarity, the prevalence of peace and stability, ensuring security of the people, enhancing the international cooperation and the introduction of clean government and good governance with the aim of flourishing multiparty democratic system and stressed the importance for those present to continue implementing these measures. He underscored the need to seek financial aid and support from the international community and direct investments from sources at home and abroad and not to rely solely on State funds alone.

He also announced that a Socio-Economy Advisory Council will be formed to allow social organizations and the private sector to coordinate and function more effectively and be able to submit suggestions to the government. He added that social and economic organizations and the private sector should strive to ensure the active participation of the people in the reform process, and that as national development calls for private sector development, associations, companies, public companies, cooperatives societies and foundations are the main forces engaged in the development of social economic status of the people.

He urged Ministries and region/state governments to draw strategies and tactics based on national and regional development projects focused on reforms and covering sectors such as agriculture, industry, education and health. He also stated that human resource development was crucial and that there is now a rising demand for skilled workers. With this in mind, offers are being constantly extended to Burmese citizens who have been living abroad to return home and participate in the process.

In his concluding address, the President stated that while serving as elected representatives, the government is making efforts to fulfil the desires and requirements of the people, which it considers its main priority. He stressed the need for cooperative efforts to establishing agricultural and livestock breeding businesses and industries and to develop health, education and human resources in order to improve living conditions of the ethnic groups. He also called on the region and state governments to take steps to make peace with ethnic armed groups as prevalence of the peace and stability of the country is sine qua non for promoting the socio-economy of the people. The President urged those present to provide assistance and to make an all out effort to the ethnic armed groups who are holding peace talks with the government in achieving eternal peace.²

¹ Hardliners Will Be Left Behind: Thein Sein – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/4147> (Irrawaddy) 14 May 2012

² President U Thein Sein calls for more efforts in reform process for national development / In conducting reforms, morality and attitude of ward/village administrators and township administrators in performing administrative duties must be polished so that they can avoid corruption, bribery and unfriendly relations with the public -

UNION LEVEL PEACE NEGOTIATING CENTRAL AND WORKING COMMITTEES FORMED

In a bid to bring an end to decades of civil insurgencies, and engage in peace talks with the ethnic armed groups, the government announced the formation of the Union Level Peacemaking Central Committee headed by the President and a 52 member Working Committee led by the Vice-President. The announcements come at a time when the on-going conflict in the Kachin State has resulted in loss of lives and thousands left homeless and displaced.³ *Please see Annexes A and B for the full text of the announcements.*

GOVERNMENT HOLDS TALKS WITH CHIN NATIONAL FRONT (CNF)

The Chin National Front (CNF) and the Government's Union level peace-making group held peace talks in Hakha on 7 May and discussed the 15-point proposal submitted by the CNF.⁴

Unofficial: Some highlights of the 15-Point Terms of Reference include:

- Both parties working towards the re-recognition of 20 February as Chin National Day and 3 January as Chin State Day
- Chin nationals living abroad will be allowed to come back and visit freely to Chin State, with the Union Peace Team issuing special pass or visas for them
- Both parties will cooperate in making sure that there is no religious discrimination against any religious groups
- Both parties cooperate in curbing human rights violations in the forms of forced labor and other violations
- To institute an independent peace monitoring body with the primary role for the Chin Peace and Tranquility Committee that will also be inclusive of all strata of Chin civil society
- To separately establish two tiers of mediating body (both at the state and union level) consisting of civil society groups that will be mandated to arbitrate peaceful resolution of dispute in the event of serious disagreement or breaches of contract between the two parties
- Unconditional amnesty will be granted to any persons, who have been arrested and jailed on grounds of association with Chin National Front
- To undo the designation of CNF as an unlawful organization

For the first time since the initial peace negotiation with the ethnic armed groups began late last year, 3rd party independent observers with representatives of the Norwegian Peace Initiative and the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) were invited to observe the peace talks.⁵ *Please see Annex C for the full text of the agreement.*

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-12.pdf> (NLM) 12 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8) / Priority task of government is to satisfy desire, fulfill requirements of people / Work coordination meeting on more effectively carrying out national and regional development tasks concludes –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-13.pdf> (NLM) 13 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8) / President Thein Sein's address to the Work Coordination Meeting (*in Burmese*)–

<http://www.president-office.gov.mm/briefing-room/daily-news/new3> (Office of the President) - 11 May 2012

³ Formation of Union Peace-making Central Committee –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-19.pdf> (NLM) 19 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8) /

Formation of Union Peace-making Work Committee -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-19.pdf> (NLM) 19 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

⁴ Union level peace-making group, CNF peace-making group hold talks -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 May 2012 (p. 9)

⁵ New CNF-Govt Agreement Defines Terms of Peace Process -

<http://chinlandguardian.com/news-2009/1787-new-cnf-govt-agreement-defines-terms-of-peace-process.html> (Chinland Guardian) 9 May 2012

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT VISITS MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO BURMA

At the invitation of President U Thein Sein, a goodwill delegation led by Korean President Lee Myung-Bak arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 May for a 2-day official. The South Korean President discussed with the Burmese President matters related to strengthening friendly ties, technical assistance for development of Burma, human resources development, investment, finance, economy, education, infrastructure, industrial development, environmental conservation, tourism, transportation, communications, science and technology, energy and mining sectors.

Unofficial

President Lee also met with NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi on 15 May and paid a historic visit to the Martyr's Mausoleum in Rangoon where 17 South Korean officials were killed in a bomb attack by North Korean agents in October 1983.⁶

CPC CENTRAL POLITBURO MEMBER AND PARTY VISIT BURMA

A 25-member delegation led by Wang Gang, member of Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China, arrived in Burma on 13 May and was welcomed by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and other officials. During the visit, Mr. Wang called on President Thein Sein, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and USDP party Secretary-General U Htay Oo in Nay Pyi Taw and held officials talks. The discussions focused on matters including the promotion bilateral relations, the further strengthening of existing ties between Burma and China, the peaceful coexistence between China and Burma, closer cooperation on international issues and exchanges between the parliamentary assemblies of the two countries.⁷

BURMESE PRESIDENT RECEIVES POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski paid an official to Burma from 9-10 May 2012. On the first day of his trip he met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw, where the two sides expressed that the two countries shared common historical, political, economic and transitional aspects and exchanged views on economic development in Burma as well as suspension and lifting of sanctions imposed by

Text of CNF-Govt Agreement (Unofficial Translation by CG) –

<http://chinlandguardian.com/articles/1790-text-of-cnf-govt-agreement-unofficial-translation-by-cg.html> (Chinland Guardian) 17 May 2012

⁶ President of Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak arrives in Nay Pyi Taw –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 9) /

President U Thein Sein welcomes ROK President Mr Lee Myung-bak -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

Myanmar wants ROK to share its experience of democratic reform, economic development and promoting living conditions of citizens (President U Thein Sein) / It is right choice Myanmar takes HRD as sine qua non for development (President Mr Lee Myung-bak) –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 16 & 9) /

President makes historic visit to Myanmar –

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/05/116_110929.html (Korean Times) 14 May 2012

Suu Kyi, South Korean president in 'goodwill' talks -

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2012-05-15/suu-kyi-south-korean-president-in-goodwill-talks/944076> (ABC Radio Australia) 15 May 2012

⁷ President U Thein Sein meets goodwill delegation led by CPC Central Politburo member –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 16 & 8) /

Member of CPC Central Politburo calls on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 7) /

CPC Central Politburo Member calls on USDP Secretary-General –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 7) /

Delegation led by Member of CPC Central Politburo arrives in Mandalay –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 May 2012 (p. 7) /

the European Union. They also discussed promoting trade and investment between the two countries in rail transport and energy sectors. The Polish FM also met his counterpart U Wunna Maung Lwin and the Ministers for Commerce and Energy, and also attended an economic seminar jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. On 10 May, Minister Sikorski met opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and discussed similarities in the Polish and Burmese transformations and EU policy toward Burma.⁸

UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

USDP CAMPAIGNS FOR NEXT ELECTION IN MAUNGDAW

The head of the Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development (USDP) party and two MPs from the party are making plans to gain support from local people in Maungdaw Township in preparations for the coming elections in 2015. The group includes Rakhine State USDP chief Maung Oo and MPs U Aung Zaw Win and U Htay Win. In a bid to garner support, Maung Oo and his group are reportedly promising to issue national IDs and remove of restrictions on building and repairing religious buildings in the region as incentives.⁹

NLD TO HOLD FIRST PARTY CONFERENCE

The National League for Democracy (NLD) is set to hold a party conference during the last week of December later this year. According to party spokesman Ohn Kyaing, it will be the first party conference to be organized since the NLD was formed in 1988. The agenda is to include restructuring and reforming the party as well as the party membership. The NLD recently launched a membership campaign with 650,000 membership applications distributed nationwide. A 9-member commission has been formed to organize the party conference with U Tin Oo as Chairman and U Nyan Win as Secretary.¹⁰

6 PARTY LEADERS INVITED TO POLITICAL SEMINAR IN AUSTRALIA

The leaders from 6 political parties in Burma have been invited to attend a political seminar conducted by the Center for Democratic Institutions (CDI) at Australia National University in Canberra from 21-25 May. The invited MPs include U Hla Saw from the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP), U Zo Zam from the Chin National Party (CNP), Dr. Than Nyein from the National Democratic Force (NDF), Daw Than Than Nu from Democratic Party, U Tun Thein from NUP (National Unity Party (NUP) and U Hla Maung from the Democratic Development Party (DDP). The

⁸ President U Thein Sein receives Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 May 2012 (p. 1) / Union Commerce Minister receives Polish FM, Bangladesh Ambassador - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 May 2012 (p. 8) / Union Energy Minister receives Polish FM, Hong Kong guests - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-11.pdf> (NLM) 11 May 2012 (p. 2) / Myanmar-Poland economic seminar opened - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-11.pdf> (NLM) 11 May 2012 (p. 2)/

Poland as a role model for Myanmar - <http://www.msz.gov.pl/Poland,as,a,role,model,for,Myanmar,52148.html> (Polish Foreign Ministry) 10 May 2012

⁹ USDP campaigns for next election in Maungdaw - http://www.kaladanpress.org/v3/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3650:usdp-campaigns-for-next-election-in-maungdaw&catid=150:may-2012&Itemid=2 (Kaladan) 9 May 2012

¹⁰ NLD to hold first party conference - <http://www.mizzima.com/news/inside-burma/7093-nld-to-hold-first-party-conference.html> (Mizzima) 10 May 2012

seminar titled the “Political Party Leadership Programme” has also invited MPs from Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia and a total of 14 politicians are expected to attend.¹¹

MON LANGUAGE STUDY TO BE ALLOWED IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

The study of Mon language is to be permitted in government schools 2 days a week, on Saturdays and Sundays, according to a source from Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) Center. The issue was raised during a recent meeting on 11 April between the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and U Aung Min, the chief government peace negotiator. “The MNEC will negotiate with the government regarding future plans [for studying Mon language],” said an official of MNEC. The main objectives of MNEC are to maintain Mon literature and culture, to teach Mon language to Mon youths, and to teach Mon grammar usage to Mon people. In 1995, during a previous NMSP ceasefire, there were 109 governmental schools in Moulmein, Kawkareik, Kyaik-ma-yaw, Kyar-inn-seiky, and Southern and Northern Ye Townships that allowed Mon language study. Now, according to the official of MNEC, the Committee plans to get permission to offer Mon language in about 400 governmental schools in Mon State, and to institute the changes with three years. “The plan will start in 2012. Subjects to be covered include Mon history, poetry, culture, art and grammar.”¹²

ANALYSIS

The recent address to senior government officials at a Work Coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw by President Thein Sein, like his inaugural speech last year, once again was shocking. It reflects not only his desire but also his vision to embark on plans and policies as he strives to promote change in the country. He warned hardliners that they will be left behind and referred to the recent by-elections as proof that the people want change.

The formation of the Central Committee and Working Committees tasked with the responsibility to oversee and administer peace talks with the ethnic armed groups is further testimony to the importance of the issue and in bringing peace and stability to Burma. While the size of the committee makes it cumbersome, it ensures that no one can ignore the peace process and shows that it is now the government’s top priority. With the recent signing of the peace agreement between the government and the Chin National Front (CNF), President Thein Sein’s new peace teams may now have to focus more in resolving the fighting taking place in the Kachin State. According to analysts and observers, the re-formation and enlargement of the peacemaking teams could yet prove to be pivotal in future peace talks with the KIO.

On the international front, the continued flow of visits by foreign dignitaries has provided additional aid and assistance, which in the past had not been offered partly due to the economic sanctions imposed on Burma. Burma’s road to transition has only just begun and the international community has shown its recognition by suspending the restrictive measures and adhere to constructive engagement. The tasks which lie ahead for the country are daunting and cannot be accomplished overnight. Burma’s transformation will require not only commitment but also patience and compromise if the desired democratic changes are to be sustainable as well as irreversible.

¹¹ Leaders of six political parties to attend political Seminar in Australia – <http://www.narinjara.com/main/index.php/leaders-of-six-political-parties-to-attend-political-seminar-in-australia/> (Narinjara) 17 May 2012

¹² Mon language study only allowed on weekends in government schools – <http://monnews.org/?p=3880> (IMNA) 10 May 2012

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No.11/2012

13th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

(3rd May, 2012)

Formation of Union Peace-making Central Committee¹³

1. The Union Government led by the President elected under the Constitution has been striving for national development in close cooperation with the legislature and the judiciary. In its drive for national development, restoration of internal peace has been high on its agenda.
2. To be able to take a leading role in negotiating with national race armed groups, "Union Peace-making Central Committee" has been formed with personalities mentioned below.

Sr.	Name	Present Portfolio	Position Appointed
1.	U Thein Sein	President	Chairman
2.	Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo	Vice-President	Member
3.	Dr Sai Mawk Kham	Vice-President	Member
4.	Thura U Shwe Mann	Speaker, People's Assembly	Member
5.	U Khin Aung Myint	Speaker, National Assembly	Member
6.	Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing	Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces	Member
7.	Lt-Gen Hla Min	Union Minister, Ministry of Defense	Member
8.	Lt-Gen Ko Ko	Union Minister, Home Affairs Ministry	Member
9.	Lt-Gen Thein Htay	Union Minister, Border Affairs Ministry	Member
10.	Dr Tun Shin	Union Attorney-General	Member
11.	U Min Zaw	Director-General, Office of President	Secretary

3. The Union Peace-making Central Committee shall be obliged to set policies for and supervise functions of Union Peace-making Work Committee.
4. The committee shall adopt procedures for dealing with transnational organizations, setting up funds and spending on peace-making process when necessary.

Sd/ Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

¹³ Formation of Union Peace-making Central Committee –
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-19.pdf> (NLM) 19 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

Appendix B:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 12/2012

13th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

(3rd May, 2012)

Formation of Union Peace-making Work Committee¹⁴

1. With a view to discussing and making peace with national race armed groups, the Union Peace-making Work Committee has been formed with the following persons.

Sr.	Name	Present Portfolio	Position Appointed
1.	Dr Sai Mawk Kham	Vice-President	Chairman
2.	Gen Soe Win	Deputy Commander-in-Chief	Vice-Chairman
3.	U Aung Min	Minister, Railway Transport	Vice-Chairman
4.	U Thein Zaw	MP, People's Assembly	Vice-Chairman
5.	U Ohn Myint	Union Minister, Cooperatives Ministry	Member
6.	U Soe Thein	Union Minister, Ministry of Industry	Member
7.	U Zaw Min	Union Minister, Ministry of Electric Power (1)	Member
8.	U Than Htay	Union Minister, Ministry of Energy	Member
9.	U Khin Yi	Union Minister, Ministry of Immigration & Population	Member
10.	U Win Tun	Union Minister, Ministry of Environment & Forestry	Member
11.	U Khin Maung Soe	Union Minister, Ministry of Electric Power (2)	Member
REGION OR STATE CHIEF MINISTERS			
12.	U La John Ngai Sai	Chief Minister, Kachin State Government	Member
13.	U Khin Maung Oo (aka) U Bu Rel	Chief Minister, Kayah State Government	Member
14.	U Zaw Min	Chief Minister, Kayin State Government	Member
15.	U Hong Ngai	Chief Minister, Chin State Government	Member
16.	U Tha Aye	Chief Minister, Sagaing Region Government	Member
17.	U Myat Ko	Chief Minister, Tanintharyi Region Government	Member
18.	U Nyan Win	Chief Minister, Bago Region Government	Member
19.	U Ohn Myint	Chief Minister, Mon State Government	Member
20.	U Hla Maung Tin	Chief Minister, Rakhine State Government	Member
21.	U Sao Aung Myat	Chief Minister, Shan State Government	Member
COMMANDERS			
22.	Maj-Gen Zeyar Aung	Commander, Northern Command	Member
23.	Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw	Commander, North-Eastern Command	Member
24.	Maj-Gen Soe Htut	Commander, Eastern Command	Member
25.	Brig-Gen Tun Tun Naung	Commander, Central-East Command	Member
26.	Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo	Commander, Triangle Region Command	Member
27.	Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win	Commander, South-East Command	Member
28.	Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay	Commander, Coastal Region Command	Member
29.	Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing	Commander, Western Region Command	Member
30.	Maj-Gen Soe Lwin	Commander, North-West Command	Member

¹⁴ Formation of Union Peace-making Work Committee - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-19.pdf> (NLM) 19 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8)

31.	Brig-Gen Nyo Saw	Command, Southern Command	Member
32.	Maj-Gen Zaw Win	Deputy Minister, Border Affairs	Member
33.	U Tun Tun Oo	Deputy Attorney-General	Member
34.	Daw Dwe Bu	Kachin National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
35.	U So Rel	Kayah National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
36.	U Saw Thein Aung	Kayin National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
37.	U Ngun Maung	Chin National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
38.	Daw Mi Yin Chan	Mon National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
39.	U Ba Shein	Rakhine National Oyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
40.	U Stephen	Shan National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
41.	U Hla Tun	Naga National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
42.	U Kyin Wan	“Wa” National Pyithu Hluttaw Representative	Member
43.	U Zakhon Ting Ying	Kachin National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
44.	U Hsan Reh	Kayah National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
45.	U Saw Tun Mya Aung	Kayin National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
46.	U Pau Hlyan Lwin	Chin National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
47.	U Saw Ohn	Mon National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
48.	U Ohn Tin	Rakhine National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
49.	U Sai Kyaw Zan Than	Shan National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
50.	U Myat Ko	Naga National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
51.	U Hsai Paung Nup	“Wa” National Amyotha Hluttaw Representative	Member
52.	U Tin Myo Kyi	Director-General, Office of Cabinet	Member

2. The Union Peace-making Work Committee shall discharge the following duties in implementing the tasks for reaching peace agreement.

(a) The State Level Peace Talks

- (1) To halt the attacks of both sides
- (2) To reside at the designated places agreed by both sides
- (3) Not to move with arms in any other regions except the designated places
- (4) To set up the liaison camps without arms at the appropriate places agreed by both sides
- (5) To coordinate matters on forming a delegation, time and venue to hold discussions with the Union Level Peacemaking Group

(b) Union Level Peace Talks

- (1) To reside together in the Union
- (2) To agree on non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- (3) To mutually engage in economic activities and development works in accord with the laws
- (4) To cooperate in the fight against narcotic and psychotropic substances
- (5) To stand for election by establishing party
- (6) To accept the constitution and if any amendments, they are to be carried out with the majority's consent in the Hluttaw
- (7) To unconditionally return to the legal fold for eternal peace and to equally live, move and earn a living in line with the constitution
- (8) To coordinate to be transformed into an armed organization in line with the constitution

3. Measures taken by the Union Peace-making Work Committee are to be reported to the Union Peace-making Central Committee in real time.

Sd/ Thein Sein,
President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Appendix C:

**Text of Cease-fire Agreement
between
the Chin National Front (CNF) and the Burmese Union-level Peace Team**

This is an unofficial translation by the *Chinland Guardian* of the 15-point agreement between the Chin National Front and the Burmese Union-level Peace Team specifying the *Terms of Reference* for the original preliminary 9-point agreement in January 2012.¹⁵

Points of Agreement between the Chin National Front and the Union-level Peace Delegation in the Presence of Witnesses from Peace Facilitators

The following agreement having been solemnly reached on the 7th of May 2012 between the Chin National Front and Union-level Peace Team in the presence of witnesses from peace facilitators upon frank and sincere discussion, is aimed at specifying the terms of reference that each party is obligated to observe, implement and materialize on a step-by-step basis, based on the nine-point original preliminary agreement on the 6th of January 2012 at Hakha, Chin State between the CNF and State Govt-level Peace Team, towards realizing eternal peace, justice, equality and socio-economic development through peaceful cooperation.

**Point of Agreement (No 1)
On Ceasefire**

The Union-level Peace Team reaffirms the preliminary agreement between the Chin State Government-level peace team and the Chin National Front Peace Team reached on January 6, 2012 as having valid and effective on the date of entry with the view of putting a stop to military confrontation and other kinds of hostilities between the two parties towards finding solution to a permanent peace. On this basis, the two parties agreed to work together in ensuring that conflicts are put to an end throughout the Union so that there are no longer military and other hostilities.

**Point of Agreement (No 2)
Agreement Relating to the Establishment of Temporary Bases in Accordance with the Preliminary Agreement**

The parties further agreed to enable members of the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army to establish bases and move freely, without limitation, within the areas designated for such temporary bases as outlined in the original preliminary mutual agreement between the Chin National Front and Chin State/Union Government: Tlangpi, Dawn and Zangtlang Village Tracts of Thantlang Township, and Zampi and Bukphir Village Tracts of Tedim Township. With regards to the establishment of CNF bases in Kung Pyin, Para and Pathiantlang Village Tracts of Paletwa Townships, the parties also agreed to carry on further discussion at the second-round Union-level talks considering that those areas fall within the command responsibility of the Western Command. Furthermore, the parties agree to discuss further at the second-round Union-level talks matter pertaining to additional demand regarding the establishment of CNF bases within Thantlang Township's Belhar, Vanzang, Lungding Village Tracts, as well as Lulpilung village; Tedim Township's Dampi, Tui Dial Village Tracts; Paletwa Township's Ra O and Shweletwa Village Tracts, as well as Ra Kan Village.

Effective from the date of signing this Union-level agreement, if the Myanmar Army and Myanmar Police Force wishes to carry out activities to facilitate the peace process within the temporary base areas designated for the Chin National Front and Chin National Army, they can only do so by pre-

¹⁵ Text of CNF-Govt Agreement (Unofficial Translation by CG) – <http://chinlandguardian.com/articles/1790-text-of-cnf-govt-agreement-unofficial-translation-by-cg.html> (Chinland Guardian) 17 May 2012

informing such a plan to pertinent Liaison Offices, which shall have been agreed to by both sides in advance. In case of emergency situation, both sides may execute troop movements upon informing the pertinent local commanders from the other side. However, the pertinent Liaison Office shall be informed of this at the earliest possible time.

Outside of the designated temporary bases, all members of the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army, barring wearing military uniforms or bearing arms, have the same rights as other citizens of the Union of Burma to freely move legally within all territories of the Union of Myanmar effective upon this Union-level agreement, in accordance with the original preliminary agreement. Where situation arises for the need to make troop movement or other matters in which arms should be carried, prior permission must be sought with the nearest Myanmar Army camps and after obtaining approval from both sides, which shall have granted such permission for travel within designated routes.

Point of Agreement (No 3)
Rights and Responsibilities of Liaison Offices

The preliminary agreement stipulated that Liaison Offices shall be established in Thanglang, Tedim and Matupi Towns. Such establishment was to carry out upon that agreement. In this context, the parties agreed to ensure that the Liaison Officer will be provided treatment consistent with diplomatic protocols that reflect his position within the CNF if such a person is a member of the Central Committee of the CNF. The Chin State Government shall provide necessary measures to ensure the physical security of the Liaison Officer. The parties agreed to observe the agreed rules of ceasefire within the above-mentioned territorial areas and in accordance with the existing laws of the Chin State Government.

Point of Agreement (No 4)
Basic Principles for Political Dialogue

As was agreed upon during the State-level talks, the political talks at the Union-level dialogue will be based on the ideals of the “Three National Causes’: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of national sovereignty. The parties agreed that such a dialogue will be held with the view to establish a genuine Union based on the ideals of equality and self-determination rooted in the Spirit of Panglong.

Point of Agreement (No 5)
On Matters Regarding International Agreements

During the Union-level talks, consideration will be made regarding the international agreements that have been acceded to by the Government of the Union of Myanmar, as well as other international human rights moral obligations.

Point of Agreement (No 6)
On Public Consultation

The parties agreed that the Chin National Front can freely hold consultations with relevant responsible persons and the larger public towards durable peace in the Union of Myanmar based on its three objectives and the ‘Three National Causes’.

Point of Agreement (No 7)
On Matters Regarding Humanitarian Organizations

The parties agreed on principle that the relevant Union Ministries will issue licenses to both international and local humanitarian organizations desiring to implement humanitarian work inside Chin State when such requests have been made to the CNF. The parties agreed that in carrying out humanitarian work inside Chin State, the CNF shall be consulted when a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the Chin State Government and a humanitarian organization that has been granted permission by the Union Government.

**Point of Agreement (No 8)
Promoting Human Resources and Capitals**

Organizations working for the promotion of socio-economic progress and development of human resources, whether based inside the country or exile, for the benefit of Chin State and Chin people, shall freely operate in Chin State with prior consultation with relevant governments and in accordance with the existing laws.

**Point of Agreement (No 9)
Joint Effort to Eradicate Illegal Drugs**

The Chin National Front will cooperate with different levels of drug eradication bodies at the State, District, Township, Wards and Village Tracts, which has been established in accordance with the Government's Order No. 17/2011 towards curbing narcotics and other mind-altering drugs.

**Point of Agreement (No 10)
On Visas**

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team will assist in issuing visas and necessary permits for Chin nationals who have made such a request to CNF, who have obtained citizenship from other countries wanting to make a visit to the Union of Myanmar.

**Point of Agreement (No 11)
Chin National Day**

The parties shall strive towards official re-recognition of February 20 as the Chin National Day. They will strive towards recognizing February 3 as the Chin State Day.

**Point of Agreement (No 12)
Matters Regarding the Chin National Front and Chin National Army**

The Chin National Front and Chin National Army remain unlawful organizations under the existing laws. The parties, therefore, agreed to do away with this designation once sufficient level of confidence has been built towards eternal peace.

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team submit to the President the need to declare amnesty to anyone who have been arrested and imprisoned on account of CNF and CNA since the establishment of the organization, effective the date of the signing of this agreement.

The parties agreed to provide the immigration department of Chin State each copies of CNF identity card. All individuals who have been issued identity cards by the CNF shall have the right to obtain the National Identity Card from the Immigration Department.

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team shall carry forward with removing such names in accordance with the law that have been blacklisted as members of the CNF.

The parties agreed that there shall be complete immunity for any members of Chin National Front and Chin National Army after the signing of this CNF-Union-level agreement from retrospective criminal prosecution.

**Point of Agreement (No 13)
On Basic Human Rights**

The Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, Article (449), states that 'the Constitution is the basic law of the nation.' As such, freedom from interference, obstruction, restrictions, discrimination and physical abuse against religious practice under articles 34, 348, 362, 363, 354 (e) of the

Constitution, cannot be alienated except in situations of “Widespread civil war, foreign invasion and civil uprising in the whole Union”. The parties agreed to cooperate in working towards ensuring the non-violation of these constitutional provisions.

The parties agreed to cooperate in ensuring unconditional and due punishment for anyone for violations of basic human rights in accordance with the law, as well as ensuring that no parties violates the constitutional basic human rights of the people in the future during the course of the ceasefire agreement. This is grounded in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Burma under Chapter 8 “Citizens, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” – rights that cannot be abrogated except in situation of “Widespread civil war, foreign invasion and civil uprising in the whole Union”.

Both parties agreed to not engage in activities that run counter to the constitution, in Chin State such as forced labor, slavery, human trafficking etc. during the term of the ceasefire agreement in accordance with Article 358 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Burma.

**Point of Agreement (No 14)
Ceasefire Monitoring Body**

It is agreed that both parties shall consultatively form a “Ceasefire Monitoring Body”, whose role will be to monitor observance of the peace agreements by the two parties with the view of materializing permanent peace out of the initial ceasefire. This group will primarily consist of the Chin Peace and Tranquility Committee with the participation of other legal experts.

The parties agreed that the Ceasefire Monitoring Body shall immediately send notice to the ‘Crisis Mediation Group’ in the event that the Union Government, the Myanmar Army, Myanmar Police Force, Chin State Government, Chin National Front and Chin National Army failed to observe any of points of the agreements, including the preliminary 9-point ceasefire agreements.

The parties agreed in principle to institute and duly authorize independent and impartial international observer groups when such need arises.

**Point of Agreement (No 15)
Institution of Peace Mediating Body**

While both parties have agreed to strictly avoid accidental confrontation and to strictly observe the mutual agreement, the parties shall accept the final arbitration of the crisis mediating body should there be any such physical violence resulting from the accidental nature.

It is agreed that such a mediating body shall be formed under the leadership of the Chin State Border Areas and Security Affairs Minister that will also involve Liaison Officer of the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army in charge of the areas where such incident took place, or commander or in-charge of the Chin National Army, commander of the Myanmar Army or Police Force, and Chairman of the Chin Peace Monitoring Body or such duly authorized person.

The Minister (Chin State Border Areas and Security Affairs Minister) call a meeting within seven days of receiving a report of allegations about a breach of any of the preliminary or Union-level agreements having been reported by Liaison Officer of the Chin National Front/Chin National Army, responsible person(s) of the Myanmar Army, the Ceasefire Monitoring Body so that such matters can be resolved peacefully.

If the two parties agreed on a decision having been reached by the Crisis Mediation Body, which is based on the preliminary 9-point agreement, such a decision will be considered final.

If such a decision cannot be agreed to by one or both parties, an alternative peaceful solution will be sought with the involvement of leaders of the CNF/CNA, members of the Chin State Government,

relevant members of the Western and Northwestern Commands of the Myanmar Army, members of the Union Peace Team and Crisis Mediating Body.

The above 15-point has been solemnly entered into an agreement on 7th May 2012, 2 Kasone 1374 of the Myanmar Calendar, at the Union Guesthouse in Hakha, the capital of Chin State. In signing this agreement, the parties mutually recognize without reservation, the obligation for full observation and, of following through the terms of the agreement, having accepted the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of national sovereignty, and the flourishing of the ethnic affairs and democracy as the basic principles of the agreement.