

UNI Apro Executive Committee Statement on Myanmar

The UNI Apro Executive Committee reiterate its **denouncement** of the military coup in Myanmar that took place on 1 February 2021. We **deplore** the State of Emergency declared in 2021 and its extension by another six months in 2022 for the junta to maintain and strengthen its illegitimate grip on power.

The coup was and remained a serious attack upon the aspirations of the people of Myanmar for democracy. The coup has caused untold misery to millions of Myanmar people and set back all progress made since 2011. It has cost the lives of more than 1,700 people protesting against the junta, more than 12,500 people arbitrarily detained, displaced at least 440,000 people, and put 14 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The ILO has reported that 1.6 million jobs were lost in 2021 due to the coup. This has worsened the ongoing pandemic's debilitating impact and has adversely affected women who lost jobs and working hours.

The UNI Apro Executive Committee **takes note** of the efforts of ASEAN and the United Nations to appoint special envoys to Myanmar. We are disappointed at the envoys' lack of success in persuading the junta to implement the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus adopted on 24 April 2021. We are further disappointed that the envoys have failed to engage the National Unity Government's representatives sufficiently.

The UNI Apro Executive Committee **calls upon** the leaders in the Asia and Pacific region and the ASEAN leaders to increase pressure on the Myanmar junta to immediately hand back power to the elected civilian leaders of the people of Myanmar. The ASEAN members and their dialogue partners must step up to impose stringent sanctions against the members of the junta and their close associates. They must also persuade the businesses domiciled in their countries from refraining to continue, or entering into, any business relationships that will benefit the junta directly or indirectly.

We also **urge** all international and regional businesses to enhance their business and human rights due diligence to ensure that they are not complicit in financing the junta to enable them to perpetrate gross human rights violations against the people of Myanmar.

The UNI Apro Executive Committee unanimously **renew** its solidarity with our sisters and brothers of Myanmar, the young people, women, workers, trade union members, and their leaders, and pledges to do everything possible to support their fight for human rights and democracy.