

34th UNI Apro Executive Committee Meeting

21 - 22 May 2025

Statement in Support of ILO Article 33 Measures on Myanmar

The UNI Apro Executive Committee **expresses its unwavering solidarity** with the people of Myanmar, who continue to endure the consequences of the military coup that took place on 1 February 2021. We stand with Myanmar's workers and democratic forces in their ongoing efforts to restore human rights, freedom, and democratic governance.

The situation in Myanmar was further worsened by the 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025. We express **deep concern** over reports of obstruction to humanitarian assistance and continued airstrikes on civilian areas in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and throughout the ongoing recovery phase. These actions highlight the deepening crisis and the blatant disregard for international humanitarian and human rights norms by the military junta.

The UNI Apro Executive Committee notes that the next International Labour Conference in June 2025 will discuss the invocation of Article 33 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Constitution against Myanmar, and that this is not a decision taken lightly, having followed closely the constitutional processes of the ILO.

We recall that:

- In 2022, the ILO established a Commission of Inquiry under Article 26 of the ILO Constitution concerning Myanmar's non-observance of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).
- In 2023, the Commission reported continued violations of fundamental labour rights and non-compliance with previous recommendations.
- In November 2024, the ILO Governing Body determined that the situation in Myanmar warranted the consideration of measures under Article 33.
- In March 2025, at its 353rd Session, the ILO Governing Body formally recommended the application of Article 33 of the ILO Constitution, which may include specific measures such as the suspension of technical cooperation, a review of financial resources channelled to Myanmar, and enhanced coordination with the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM).

The tripartite constituents at the International Labour Conference in June will be called upon to formally consider and adopt the recommendation. The UNI Apro Executive Committee strongly supports and welcomes this development, as it represents an important opportunity to rally international attention and support for the ongoing struggle of the people in Myanmar.

We **call on** all governments, employers' organisations, and trade unions participating in the International Labour Conference to support the resolution under Article 33. We **urge** them to take steps to:

- Review their engagement policies towards Myanmar considering the ILO's findings.
- Ensure that all forms of cooperation are aligned with international labour standards.
- Provide appropriate support to Myanmar's democratic forces, including the National Unity Government (NUG) and trade unions defending workers' rights in extremely dangerous conditions.

We further **call on** the broader international community, including the UN system and bilateral and multilateral actors, to align their policies and practices with any measures adopted under Article 33.

The UNI Apro Executive Committee **stands with, and remains committed** to supporting all of Myanmar's workers, trade unionists, and the people in their pursuit to reclaim peace, justice, and fundamental rights.