



## 57<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting, April-May 2021

# EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION CONDEMNING MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR AND DEMANDING RESPECT OF DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### The Executive Board of Education International, meeting on 19 – 20 April 2021

1. Strongly condemns
  - a. The military coup in Myanmar and the arrests of President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and other democratically elected leaders of the National League of Democracy Party in violation of the Constitution, national law and international standards;
  - b. The imposition of a state of emergency for one year and the violent suppression of all forms of protests including peaceful demonstrations, strikes, and civil disobedience;
  - c. The murder and detention of trade unionists and other democracy activists;
  - d. The widespread use of force, including live ammunition, tear gas, water cannons and stun grenades, which has killed hundreds of people, including youth and children;
  - e. The disrespect for rule of law and the violation of international human rights standards, including restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of association, and academic freedom;
  - f. The detention of Dr. Sean Turnell, economic advisor to Aung San Suu Kyi, and a member of the National Tertiary Education Union of Australia;
  - g. The occupation of schools and universities by security forces and other attacks on the education system;
2. Notes with grave concern
  - a. That over 110 educators have been detained. Door-to-door searches have forced many teachers and civil servants to live in hiding. Many public employees are dismissed or forced to return to work;
  - b. That the members and leaders of the Myanmar Teachers' Federation and of other basic education and higher education unions have been arrested on false charges;
3. Extends full support and solidarity to
  - a. The teachers, workers, students, and other democrats in their struggle to salvage the results of free elections and return to the path of democracy;
  - b. The leaders and members of the education unions and their civil society allies who have shown great courage and resolve in the struggle for democracy, rule of law and human and trade union rights in Myanmar.

**The Executive Board, therefore:**



4. Demands that the *de facto* rulers of Myanmar immediately end all violence and return the power to the elected leaders and Parliament;
5. Calls on the United Nation Security Council to
  - a. Strongly condemn the military coup and subsequent violence and atrocities against the population;
  - b. Demand recognition of election outcomes and facilitate the resumption of the democratisation of Myanmar;
  - c. Impose sanctions on the military leaders responsible for the coup and their economic interests;
  - d. Identify suppliers of surveillance and other sophisticated technology and take measures to cut off supplies of these tools of oppression and terror;
6. Calls on national governments and the European Union to
  - a. Go beyond words and take concrete measures to weaken Myanmar's military dictatorship;
  - b. Review trade and investment agreements, including under Generalised Systems of Preferences, and eliminate anything that aids the economic interests of military rulers and helps them stay in power;
  - c. Restrict foreign aid and other assistance programmes and avoid any measures that benefit the military;
  - d. Intervene with companies and banks to end any investments and activities that support the *de facto* regime;
7. Asks EI member organisations to
  - a. Contact national governments to immediately enact political and economic measures to end the state of emergency, stop the slaughter of civilians, release the detained and resume the transition to democracy; and
  - b. Contribute to EI's Myanmar Solidarity Fund to support those sanctioning the military regime on the ground by mobilising and striking in support for democracy.