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Statement By Karen Peace Support Network

8 February 2021

Ethnic Armed Organisations Must Oppose the Military Coup and Unite in demanding Federal Democracy

The Karen Peace Support Network calls on Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) not to recognize the legitimacy of the new military dictatorship and to join ethnic civil society organisations and pro-democracy groups in condemning the military coup that took place on 1st February.

EAOs must recognise that the current peace process is dead. It must be acknowledged that the Myanmar military has never been a sincere actor in the peace process, as it has repeatedly violated the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and other ceasefires to seize more territory and strategic advantage. There can be no peace with a military dictatorship which has again seized power by force and continues to wage war against ethnic civilians regardless of the commitments it has been party to. Any further peace negotiations must be suspended immediately.

We must not allow the military's tactics to divide and rule us to succeed. A new, functional alliance between EAOs must be convened to present a united front to the new dictatorship - with a clear commitment to universal human and indigenous rights that can win support from all nationalities, progressive civil society and the international community. Together we must work for a genuine federal democracy with equal rights for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion or gender.

EAOs must proactively provide support and sanctuary in areas under their control to activists and journalists at risk of arrest and imprisonment. EAOs should call on international donors to cease funding the now redundant Joint Peace Fund and instead urge them to work with non-governmental civil society groups, in partnership with EAOs, to support the newly and formerly displaced, including assisting in providing for their security.

The 2008 Constitution is defunct

**The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and the peace process are dead, and
We all must work towards a new federal democratic constitution.**