



Stockholm, 27 May 2021

To Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment
cc: Thomas Janson, Ministry of Employment

Accreditation of the Myanmar military junta at the ILO 109th International Labour Conference

LO, TCO and Saco, in solidarity with the democratic trade union movement in Myanmar, wish to call on the Swedish Government to oppose the accreditation of representatives of the Myanmar illegal military junta to the ongoing 109th International Labour Conference (ILC) and other relevant international meetings.

The illegal coup launched by a military junta on 1 February 2021 in Myanmar directly denies the rule of the democratically-elected government and has been responsible for the deaths of more than 800 civilians and the arbitrary arrest of nearly 5,000 people. The military junta has also illegally dismissed tens of thousands of workers, directed violence and retaliation against unions by, among other things, declaring sixteen unions and workers' organisations illegal.

In November 2020, the National League of Democracy (NLD) won the election. Based on the results of the election, the NLD, together with broad groups in society, formed a coalition government called the National Unity Government of the Republic of Myanmar (NUG).

Given this background, LO, TCO and Saco urge the Swedish government to recognise NUG as the only legitimate regime in Myanmar. As a consequence, LO, TCO and Saco urge the Swedish Government not to recognise the junta's representatives at the ILO 109th Labour Conference or at other international meetings and thus vote against giving them accreditation at the conference.

Myanmar, in contrast to other undemocratic states, is applying for accreditation for government representatives through two different alternatives, the junta and the NUG. With this as background, it is possible to vote against the accreditation of the illegal junta. At the last WHO meeting, in line with LO policy, the junta's representatives were not accredited. LO, TCO and Saco believe, however, that NUG should be given the right to representation at the ILC.

LO, TCO and Saco assume that the Swedish Government shares their concerns about developments in Myanmar and are willing to act on the basis of the opportunities that are available. The first step is to take a position against the junta by not recognising them at the current ILO conference, and also in the future at other international meetings.

Best regards



Susanna Gideonsson

President LO



Therese Svanström

President TCO



Göran Arrius

President Saco