Statement of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) Regular Meeting

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) regular meeting for the year 2012 was held at a place in the liberated area on the Thai-Burma border, from July 16 to 18. At the meeting, an in-depth deliberation was made over the war by Bama Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) against the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA), a member organization of the UNFC, and the Union Peace Committee's peace building agenda, publicized by President U Thein Sein government.

President U Thein Sein government gives no regard to the UNFC's call for nationwide ceasefire and political dialogue, and makes war up to this day, against the KIO/KIA, which is a UNFC member organization. Moreover, towards the end of June, its troops used heavy weapons bombardment to capture a base camp of the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army-North (SSPP/SSA-N), which is also a UNFC member organization and which has signed ceasefire agreement. These show that U Thein Sein government is not honestly and faithfully performing the ceasefire and peace process. Hence, the UNFC would like to appeal to the people, the international organizations and governments, which are ready to aid and support the Union of Burma, not to rush in haste, to trust and support U Thein Sein government, which has no honesty and cannot deliver justice. As there can be no peace and stability in such a situation, the UNFC would like to request the international community not to make economic investment in the country. All the UNFC member organizations fully support the KIO/KIA and SSPP/SSA-N, which have to resist military attacks on their base camps.

We, the UNFC, cannot accept the proposals for armed ethnic organizations to form political parties and contest the elections, accept the 2008 Constitution and amend the Constitution through the parliament in accordance with the majority decision, contained in the Union Peace Building Work Committee's agenda, which was issued by President U Thein Sein government in early May 2012, as they are not the agenda for dialogue and negotiation on the basis of free and equal status.

While mutual mistrust exists between the two forces, the pleasant and effective program acceptable to both sides for negotiation will be:

1. To hold the negotiation in a venue where either side cannot impose its influence;

2. To have an impartial international body to observe the proceedings during the entire period of negotiation;

3. In negotiation, representatives of the Union Government are to meet with representatives from all the armed organizations, including those from the UNFC;

4. A convention participated by representatives from all the armed ethnic organizations, the ethnic political parties, ethnic social organizations and the ethnic intelligentsia is to be held; (If other groups of forces want to hold such a convention, they must have the permission to do so within their own groups)
(5) A broad-based national convention with a structure acceptable to all the forces (stake holders) and participated by equal number of delegates from the ethnic forces, democratic forces and the government is to be held.

(6) The decisions made by the convention are to be recognized as the agreements of the entire Nation, and the organizations concerned are to accept them for the implementation;

(7) These processes are to be finished, before the general elections in 2015.

With this statement, we would like to declare our view that thus, an evenly smooth transition and a new United Democratic Union will be realized.

Day 4, Waxing Moon of 2nd Wazo Month, 1374
July 22, 2012

Council Members
United Nationalities Federal Council