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Statement of Acting President Duwa Lashi La
On Passage by the US Congress of the Burma Act

The National Unity Government (NUG) and the pro-democracy forces of Myanmar applaud passage today by the US Congress of the Burma Act as part of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (2023 NDAA). We look forward to President Biden soon signing it into law.

This important law clearly sets out United States policy to support the people of Myanmar as well as the NUG, NUCC, CRPH, CDM and our allied organizations in our struggle against the junta for democracy, human rights, and justice. It also expands authorization for economic sanctions on the military junta, its cronies, and the energy sector and related businesses. The law authorizes greater humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar; technical support and non-lethal assistance to Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and People's Defence Forces (PDFs); and to support programs for former members of the military. It also authorizes support for the establishment and operation of transitional justice mechanisms. The legislation will promote steps to increase pressure on the military, including at the UN.

The Burma Act will provide much needed hope and support to the struggling people of our country. We also thank the Burmese diaspora and people of good conscience across the U.S. who worked tirelessly in support of this achievement. It is only through working together with our brothers and sisters around the world that we will bring democracy back to our people. With the passage of the Burma Act, support for our democracy movement grows ever stronger.

I again deeply thank the US Congress and all those who worked to get the Burma Act approved.