



# ▶ Record of proceedings

# 2D

**International Labour Conference – 109th Session, 2021**  
Date: 7 July 2021

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## Plenary sitting: Outcomes of the work of the Selection Committee

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Monday, 14 June 2021, 1 p.m.

President: Ms Goldberg

## Draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar submitted by the Workers' group

### The President

It is my great pleasure to declare open this seventh plenary sitting of the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference.

On 9 June 2021, the Chairperson of the Workers' group submitted to the President of the Conference a draft resolution under article 17, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, calling for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar. The Officers of the Conference reviewed the draft resolution and unanimously consider that it relates to an urgent matter within the meaning of the above provision of the Standing Orders.

You will recall that, on 11 June, the Officers presented a recommendation to the Conference, contained in document [ILC.109/D.4](#). The recommendation was that the Conference request the Selection Committee to review the draft resolution at the earliest possible opportunity and to report back to the Conference on its consideration, with any amendments thereto, by 18 June 2021.

### Mr Nakajima

#### Government (Japan), speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group

I would like to speak about the timeline for the work of the Selection Committee, in particular the deadline of 7 p.m. Geneva time on Tuesday 15 June for the submission of proposed amendments. In order for all members of the Committee to be able to effectively participate in the discussions on this important topic, appropriate time should be given for the consideration and scrutiny of the proposals by all members. Considering that Monday has already passed in most parts of Asia and the Pacific, the timeline should have some flexibility. For example, an extra half day should be given to countries from the Asia and Pacific group, so that they have until noon on Wednesday. This would allow for the effective participation of many more members of the Committee without causing major difficulties in terms of efficiency. I would appreciate your kind consideration for our proposal – to extend the deadline for the submission of proposed amendments until noon on Wednesday – to be formally considered and adopted by the Committee itself.

### The President

This is an issue for the Selection Committee, and I am certain that the Committee will take due note of your request. For the moment, however, the proposal before us is to endorse the recommendation of the Officers contained in document [ILC.109/D.4](#) to refer the matter to the Selection Committee.

Unless there are any other requests to speak, may I take it that the Conference endorses the Officers' recommendation?

**(The Conference endorses the Officers' recommendation.)**

**(The Conference continues its discussion of the Reports of the Chairpersons of the Governing Body and of the Director-General.)**

**Friday 18 June 2021, 3.10 p.m.**

**President: Mr Zniber**

## **First report of the Selection Committee: Submission and noting**

### **The President**

We now turn our attention to the first report of the Selection Committee, which is contained in *Record of proceedings No. 2A*. It is my pleasure to recall that the Officers of the Committee are: Ms Thérèse Boutsen (Belgium), Chairperson; Mr Hiroyuki Matsui (Japan), Employer Vice-Chairperson; and Ms Catelene Passchier (Netherlands), Worker Vice-Chairperson.

I now give the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Boutsen, so that she may present the report.

### **Ms Boutsen**

#### **Chairperson of the Selection Committee**

##### **(Original French)**

As Chairperson of the Selection Committee, it is a great honour for me to present our Committee's first report to you. As you know, the Conference entrusted us with the consideration of three substantive matters, namely: the consolidated text of the amended Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference; the proposed abrogations and withdrawals of international labour standards; and, lastly, the draft resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance.

The Committee carried out its work efficiently. The matters that it dealt with are of great importance to the Organization. The preparation process for these matters lasted, in some cases, for several years, punctuated by consultations, strengthened and marked by the ILO's characteristic tripartite spirit of compromise. This made it possible for the Committee to conclude its work rapidly. You will find the details of our work set out in document [ILC.109/D.2](#), prepared by the Secretariat. I would like to say a little about each of these three matters.

First of all, the amendment of the Standing Orders. This forms part of the effort to modernize the governance structures of the ILO, in particular through amending the standing orders of the various tripartite bodies of the ILO: in this regard, the standing orders of the Governing Body, of regional meetings, of sectoral meetings and of technical and expert meetings were amended or adopted. The comprehensive review of the Standing Orders of the Conference is the final, and certainly the most impressive, stone laid in this updated regulatory structure.

Speakers in our Committee have noted that the four main objectives established at the outset of the process have been achieved: the deletion of obsolete provisions, the codification of current practices, the simplification as much as possible and the rationalization of the overall structure of the Standing Orders. You therefore have before you a modernized Standing Orders, reduced by more than a third, that will surely enable

the Conference to carry out its work for the decades to come. This is perhaps the last meeting of the Selection Committee, since the new Standing Orders provide for a General Affairs Committee. It is with great pride that the Selection Committee, with one of its last breaths, recommends to the Conference that it adopt the amended Standing Orders and decide that they will come into effect at the close of the 109th Session in December 2021.

I come now to the abrogation of 8 Conventions and the withdrawal of 10 Conventions and 11 Recommendations. Here again, the Selection Committee decided, by consensus, to propose the ten abrogations and the withdrawals of these instruments, almost all of which relate to maritime matters. Such a decision on the part of the Conference would constitute a major step forward for the various initiatives and decisions, including the Centenary Declaration, which aim to ensure that the ILO has a robust, clearly defined and up-to-date corpus of international standards, particularly on maritime matters, that enable it to respond to changes in the world of work for the protection of workers. It was with this in mind that the Standards Review Mechanism entrusted the Special Tripartite Committee with the task of reviewing 68 maritime instruments.

The abrogation or withdrawal of 27 maritime instruments would represent a major step forward in the efforts undertaken to modernize the ILO's body of standards. It would further revitalize the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, which has integrated most of the pre-existing maritime instruments to articulate, in a single document, the right of seafarers to decent work. To date, this Convention has been ratified by more than 100 Member States.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Conference that it decide, as a preliminary step, to submit the formal proposal to abrogate and withdraw each of these 29 instruments to a record vote this afternoon.

Lastly, the Selection Committee dealt with the draft resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance, which was the outcome of the work of the Tripartite Working Group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance. The adoption by the Conference of this resolution would, again, constitute an important step in the implementation of the Centenary Declaration, adopted more than two years ago by the Conference, particularly since doing so would eliminate obstacles to the ratification of the 1986 Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the ILO by confirming the patent obsolescence of part of article 7(3)(b)(i) thereof. With regard to the 1986 Instrument, nine ratifications are still required to complete the process, three of which by Members of chief industrial importance. As indicated in our report, Brazil has also indicated that it is working on ratifying the 1986 Instrument. The Committee therefore recommends to the Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance.

I will not prolong my statement except to thank the members of the Committee, including Mr Matsui, the Employer Vice-Chairperson, and Ms Passchier, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, for our successful and efficient work together. Allow me also to thank the Office and, in particular, its legal team, for its valuable advice and warm support. I therefore recommend to the Conference that it adopt the first report of the Selection Committee, as well as the Standing Orders of the Conference and the resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance.

## The President (Original French)

Many thanks, Ms Boutsen, for this summary of the work of the Committee and of the items it is submitting to the Conference for adoption. As has been mentioned, the Selection Committee has made recommendations to the Conference which require a decision from the Conference.

## Approval of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference

### The President

The Selection Committee has recommended that the Conference adopt the consolidated text of the amended Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, as set out in Appendix I to the Committee's first report.

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts the Standing Orders, as amended?

**(The Standing Orders, as amended, are adopted.)**

The amended Standing Orders of the Conference will take effect as from the closure of the 109th Session, in December 2021.

## Abrogation or withdrawal of 29 international labour instruments

### The President

May I remind you that the Selection Committee has recommended to the Conference that it take the preliminary decision, referred to in paragraph 3 of article 45 *bis* of the Standing Orders of the Conference, to submit the formal proposal for the abrogation or withdrawal of each of the 18 Conventions and 11 Recommendations, as set out in Appendix II to the first report of the Selection Committee, to a record vote. The vote is scheduled to take place later this afternoon.

If there are no objections, may I take it that this decision is adopted by the Conference?

**(It is so decided.)**

## Resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance

### The President

The Selection Committee has recommended that the Conference adopt the proposed resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance, as set out in Appendix III to the Committee's first report.

### Mr Sergeev Government (Russian Federation) (Original Russian)

The Russian delegation would like to abstain on the resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's

tripartite governance, the draft of which is in the first report of the Selection Committee. We cannot fully agree with some of the provisions contained in the resolution and we would like this statement to be placed on record.

### The President (Original French)

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts this resolution?

**(The resolution is adopted.)**

May I take it that the Conference notes the first report of the Selection Committee?

**(The Conference takes note of the report.)**

**(The Conference continues its work in plenary.)**

**Saturday, 19 June 2021, 12.30 p.m.**

**President: Mr Zniber**

## **Second report of the Selection Committee: Resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar – Adoption**

### The President

I welcome you to this 12th and final plenary sitting of the first part of the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference. We will start our proceedings with the consideration of the second report of the Selection Committee, which is contained in *Record of proceedings No. 2B* and sets out the text of a draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar, submitted by the Selection Committee for adoption by the Conference.

I now give the floor to the Chairperson of the Selection Committee, Ms Boutsen, so that she may present the report to us.

### Ms Boutsen

Chairperson of the Selection Committee  
(Original French)

I stand before you again today with the second report of the Selection Committee, which this time deals with the draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar, presented by Ms Passchier on behalf of the Workers' group.

You will recall that the Officers of the Conference considered unanimously that this draft dealt with an urgent matter and was therefore admissible. On the basis of their recommendation, the Conference transmitted the resolution to our Committee to consider and report back as soon as possible.

The Selection Committee held four meetings to consider and adopt the draft resolution. It started with a brief general discussion before spending two full meetings on the consideration of over 30 amendments. The Committee concluded its work yesterday with the adoption of the revised text.

The work of the Committee went smoothly, firstly and foremost because of the spirit of dialogue and compromise that made it possible to come up with a strong, clear draft

resolution, despite the particular circumstances and the short time available to us, but also because of the measures that the Committee took to enable it to do the work entrusted to it by the Conference.

The willingness of Committee members to work to a particularly short deadline was a decisive factor for our work. The text of the resolution is, I think, a clear and unequivocal response from ILO constituents to the current situation in Myanmar.

The voice of the ILO is now added to the initiatives taken in the bilateral system, and is of particular value because of the contribution made by the Workers' and the Employers' groups with a view to rapidly restoring democracy and the rule of law in Myanmar.

The Selection Committee recommends in particular to the Conference that it call on Myanmar to take a number of specific measures, namely: restore democratic order and civilian rule; cease all attacks, threats and intimidation by the military; immediately and unconditionally release all those arbitrarily detained, end the violation of human rights and ensure the restoration of fundamental principles and rights at work.

The text that we propose also calls on Member States to support the restoration of democracy and recognize the important role of workers' and employers' organizations in advancing the prompt restoration of democratic order and civilian rule, and the continuation of the transition to democracy in Myanmar. It further proposes that the Governing Body be responsible for follow-up to the resolution.

The draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar has received broad support in our Committee. It is therefore without reservation that I recommend to the Conference today that it adopt the draft resolution.

I will conclude by quoting from the Centenary Declaration: "The ILO must carry forward into its second century with unrelenting vigour its constitutional mandate for social justice by further developing its human-centred approach to the future of work, which puts workers' rights and the needs, aspirations and rights of all people at the heart of economic, social and environmental policies."

By adopting this draft resolution, I believe that the Conference will be doing exactly this. I would like to thank the members of the Committee, including Mr Matsui and Mr Barklamb – the Employer Vice-Chairperson and Employer spokesperson, respectively – and Ms Passchier, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, for their commitment throughout our work. Allow me also to thank the Office again and, in particular, its legal team, whose advice and support have been indispensable for me to carry out the task entrusted to me.

## **Ms Passchier**

### **Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Selection Committee, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the Workers' group**

A few years ago, I visited our colleagues in Myanmar. I saw with my own eyes how the country was in a situation of transition: towards more social dialogue, more democracy and a better future for its younger generations. The unions were actively engaging in discussions with the Government on new laws and regulations on labour and trade union rights. Colleagues from the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar showed me around their new head office with pride, and I met a group of enthusiastic young trade unionists, many of them women, being trained to become the new generation of trade union leaders. When I visited one of the small trade union offices in

an industrial area of Yangon, groups of workers from nearby garment factories came for advice on how to put more pressure on their employer, by habitual and peaceful trade union means and actions, to increase their still very low minimum wage. The situation in the country was certainly not perfect, but our colleagues were hopeful and highly engaged in a better future for working people in their country. The general elections of November last year were another important step on this path towards democracy.

On 1 February this year, all this hope was shattered by the military, which did not want to respect or accept the clear voice of the majority of the population in Myanmar. Our colleagues, the young men and women trade unionists as well as their leaders, and many others with them, are now fearing for their lives and that of their families, many of them shot dead in the streets or arbitrarily arrested and detained, for the only reason that they demand respect for the voice of the people of Myanmar that have cast their votes in favour of a democratic future for their country.

I am addressing the Conference today to commend the adoption of the draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar. More than four months after the military staged a coup against the democratically elected Government of Myanmar, military violence against the people of Myanmar has escalated everywhere across the country. We deplore the death of over 800 people and the widespread and ongoing violations of human and labour rights. Trade union leaders and labour activists alongside their families have been particularly targeted by the military authorities, with many arrested, intimidated, threatened and harassed. Those who took to the streets to demand the restoration of the democratically elected government have been targeted. Several were forced into hiding after having been put on a military wanted list, including Maung Maung, President of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar and a former member of the Governing Body. More recently, several trade unionists had their passports declared null and void.

Despite a strong tripartite appeal by the Governing Body at its March 2021 session, the military authorities have not taken any steps to restore democratic order and civilian rule in the country, but, rather, have increased their attack on civilians, chasing down and shooting activists on the street, forcing people to be human shields and causing massive displacement from bombing raids.

This is what prompted the Workers' group to submit a draft resolution to the Conference. I want to thank the Government and Employer members of the Selection Committee, under the competent leadership of our Chairperson, Ms Thérèse Boutsen, for having worked with us to present to you today this draft resolution on a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar. We hope and strongly encourage all ILO constituents to work with their constituencies to promote action on this resolution, in their countries and regions, and globally.

The draft resolution recognizes the risks to the lives and personal security of those supporting democracy and demanding respect for their fundamental rights. It calls on Myanmar to restore democratic order and civilian rule in the country. It calls on the military to cease all attacks, threats and intimidation against those who take part in protest activities and to immediately and unconditionally release from detention and withdraw any charges against all those arbitrarily detained. It further calls on Myanmar to put an end to the violation of human rights, to restore fundamental principles and rights at work, to respect the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and to repeal any measures or orders restricting the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association. Importantly, the resolution also recommends that Member States support the



restoration of democracy in Myanmar, while recognizing the important role that workers' and employers' organizations play.

In this context, we encourage all Governments to end financial relationships and cease cooperation with those responsible for the coup, and to recognize and engage with the National Unity Government that has the support of the people of Myanmar in the lead up to the United Nations General Assembly, while ensuring humanitarian support for the population of Myanmar. We also thank the Employers' group for drawing attention to the specific role of employers and their organizations in this regard, both in Myanmar and internationally. We call on the international business community to fully recognize the responsibility of multinational enterprises to act in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines and the ILO's Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. They should especially take into account their due diligence obligations regarding the big risks for violations of human and labour rights when currently doing business in Myanmar, refraining from any activity that may provide legitimacy to the military regime, and ensuring their business activities fully respect fundamental rights and do not benefit the military leaders and their families.

We commend the adoption of this resolution, which requests, last but not least, that the implementation of the resolution be followed up by the Governing Body including in relation to next year's session of the International Labour Conference.

I want to conclude by expressing the full solidarity of the ILO Workers' group for the struggle of trade union leaders and activists, workers and the people of Myanmar. We express our deepest sympathy to all those who have lost their lives and their families. We admire the tremendous courage of the people, many of them young men and women, who day after day, continue to take to the streets to defend the same democratic values and principles that led to the creation of the ILO one hundred years ago. Rest assured that the Workers in the ILO will continue to support the labour movement and all those involved in the struggle for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar.

### **Mr Barklamb**

#### **Employer (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Selection Committee**

It is an honour to have the opportunity to speak today in support of this resolution on this difficult and pressing matter. On behalf of the Employers' group, I would like to start by sharing our profound concerns regarding the alarming situation in Myanmar, with the deaths of hundreds of people, attacks on civil protests, attacks on trade unionists, unwarranted incarceration, arbitrary detention and the burning down of factories and workplaces. We have already had opportunities to share these profound concerns during the Governing Body discussion in March this year. We reiterate them today, following further very concerning and distressing developments in Myanmar. At a time when core principles and the ILO's values are violated, in particular the principle of freedom of association, of speech and of peaceful assembly, governments, workers and employers need to send a strong and common message that the acts and omissions of the military government since February are unacceptable.

The Employers' group takes these issues very seriously and always stands ready to work towards actions, to effectively support employers, workers, free trade unions and employers' organizations, not only in Myanmar, but everywhere that these rights are

threatened. As employers, we will speak up and we will stand up when the lives, liberty and rights of any are threatened, whether our own or our worker social partners. It is against this backdrop that employers engage constructively in the work of the Selection Committee to consider and progress the draft resolution put forward by the Workers' group. We have worked with the clear objective of agreeing on strong words and actions on Myanmar, consistent with the roles and remit of this Organization.

I am pleased to report today that the resolution we agreed upon sends a strong and unanimous message to Myanmar. It calls for the restoration of democratic order and civilian rule, it calls for arbitrary arrests, detention, intimidation, threats and acts of violence against those peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly to cease immediately.

The resolution also makes it clear that the situation is impacting negatively on employers too, by recognizing the serious risks for the capacity of employers in Myanmar to conduct their activities and to provide for decent work. This is a further serious issue for the people of Myanmar. Without a safe and sustainable climate for doing business, for employing and for providing access to goods and services, living standards, development and the public good will be held back further. In that regard, we welcome the clear call by Members of this Organization; government, workers and employers, to Myanmar to cease all attacks, threats and intimidation against workers, employers and their respective organizations. Finally, we note that the implementation of this resolution will be followed up by the Governing Body, and the Employers' group stands ready to engage in these discussions to ensure that the rights and values of the ILO are respected in Myanmar.

We also want to express our gratitude, support and solidarity for all those from the ILO, the wider UN and the humanitarian community working in Myanmar. We rely on you to work on our behalf, often in dangerous situations, and to tell us what is going on and to try and carry out the actions we endorse and prioritize. We thank you and we support you in this important work in difficult and uncertain circumstances. We would like to thank all who helped this resolution be produced and put before you today rapidly; the Chairperson of the Committee, our Worker colleagues, our Government colleagues and staff from the Office. With that, we are pleased to support the draft resolution and also join our colleagues in commending it to the Conference.

**Mr Sergeev**  
**Government (Russian Federation)**  
**(Original Russian)**

The Russian Federation has, on several occasions, expressed its concern regarding the escalation of violence in Myanmar and the resulting numbers of dead and injured. We share concerns about the unacceptable disproportionate use of force against demonstrators and the restrictions of citizens' right to peaceful protest. At the same time, we are also aware of the rising radical anti-government movement, which is a source of serious concern in the context of an overall decrease in aggression and the gradual return to normality in major cities. To all intents and purposes, the leaders of the opposing forces have driven the situation to armed conflict.

Under these circumstances, we consider that all the parties in Myanmar must show the utmost restraint, and take the swiftest possible steps to ensure that there are no more casualties, and to facilitate the launch of a dialogue to lead the way out of this complex situation. The international community has a role to play in supporting efforts

to overcome this internal political crisis through dialogue, while upholding the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, neutrality and non-censorship. Threats and pressure are counterproductive and lack forethought. Provoking the extremist wing of the protest movement will likely result in an escalation of the situation, for which the civilian population will suffer.

Given the foregoing, we do not think that this resolution will facilitate the return to normality in Myanmar. The final version of the document is biased and politicized, giving a one-sided, distorted picture of the situation, and constitutes interference in the internal affairs of the country. Most importantly, much of the wording is outside the mandate of the ILO and does not take account of the efforts being made by the authorities in Naypyidaw to comply with ILO Conventions. We find it regrettable that these concerns, which have been raised continuously by the Russian Federation and other delegations in the course of discussions on this resolution, seem to have been completely ignored by the Chairperson of the Committee, who seems to have listened to only one group of Member States. We believe that the adoption of this document will not enhance our Organization's authority.

**Mr Wang**  
**Government (China)**  
**(Original Chinese)**

Being an amicable neighbour to Myanmar, China hopes that all parties in the country could, bearing in mind the fundamental interests of the people, engage in peaceful dialogue and consultation, according to the Constitution and within the legal framework, to maintain social stability and properly promote its systematic democratic transition. It is imperative to eradicate immediately all violence and prevent new conflict that sheds blood. China believes that de-escalation of tensions in Myanmar serves the shared interests of all parties.

The tripartite constituents of the ILO and the International Labour Conference should uphold the principle of respecting Member States' sovereignty, play a constructive role in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation among parties, to create conducive conditions for the protection of labour rights and the interests of workers and employers in Myanmar. China supports the continued efforts of the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and relevant parties, to step up diplomacy and mediation on the issues of Myanmar, and calls on all ILO Member States to abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

**The President**

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts this resolution?

**(The resolution is adopted.)**

**Mr Martins**  
**Government (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. The EU and its Member States welcome the adoption of the resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar. We believe it is not only timely but also critical for tripartite constituents to show our joint commitments to the protection of human rights, including labour rights, in Myanmar. The EU and its Member

States stand with the people of Myanmar, and we stand in solidarity with all those advocating for and working towards an inclusive democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU and its Member States reiterate calls to immediately end all acts of violence, to exercise the utmost restraint and respect for international law and human rights, including labour rights. We call on the military forces to cease arbitrary detentions and torture, to return peacefully to Myanmar's democratic path, as well as to release immediately and without conditions all those arbitrarily detained in connection with the coup, including President U Win Myint and State Counsellor San Suu Kyi. The EU and its Member States continue to fully support the UN's efforts to secure a peaceful return of Myanmar to its democratic path. The crucial role of the ILO and its constituents in advancing and complementing these endeavours with respect to the world of work and social protection cannot be overstated. The EU and its Member States thank the Workers' and Employers' groups, as well as Governments, for their constructive engagement in the synergization of this resolution.

**Mr Hobby**  
**Government (New Zealand)**

New Zealand wishes to express deep concern regarding the situation in Myanmar following the February coup. We condemn the coup, the ongoing violence against workers, unions and civil society and the detention of political figures, journalists, union leaders and peaceful protestors. We further register our concern regarding the arrests and coercion of unions and workers expressing their fundamental right to freedom of association.

New Zealand supports the resolution on Myanmar. The situation in Myanmar is counter to the fundamental principles of the ILO, and we strongly urge Myanmar to meet its obligations as an ILO Member.

New Zealand again calls on Myanmar to return to civilian rule. We urge the security forces to end the violence, arbitrary detention of civilians and attacks on freedom of expression and association.

**Ms Durbin**  
**Government (Australia)**

Australia remains gravely concerned about the escalating violence and rising death toll in Myanmar since the events of 1 February. We continue to condemn the use of lethal force, violence and intimidation against civilians exercising their right to universal assembly and freedom of expression and continue to strongly urge Myanmar's security forces to exercise restraint, refrain from further violence and release all those arbitrarily detained.

Australia stands with the people of Myanmar in rejecting the coup and we reiterate our call for the military regime to engage in inclusive dialogue to return Myanmar to the path of democratic transition.

The ILO's fundamental values of freedom of association and the right to organize must be upheld, and we strongly urge Myanmar to meet its obligations under ILO Conventions and cease practices of violence, arbitrary arrest and detention.

Australia supports this resolution and encourages all ILO constituents to do the same.

## Ms Krüger Government (Canada)

Canada wishes to express its full support for this critical resolution. We express our deep appreciation to the Workers' group for proposing the resolution, and to constituents for engaging constructively in these negotiations. That this is the first resolution of its kind at the International Labour Conference since 2006, speaks volumes about the significance of the military Myanmar coup and its impact on workers, unions and the general population, and the urgent need for mediated resolution.

As we have previously stated, Canada unequivocally condemns the Myanmar military's seizure of power and ensuing violent repression of civilians, including the specific targeting of trade unionists and their families. These actions are fundamentally incompatible with democracy and human rights, and must be reversed immediately. Crises such as this also provide fertile ground for violation of freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, as well as increased incidence of forced labour and trafficking in persons. Canada underscores the urgency of this situation in Myanmar, and its widespread consequences, including on labour and workers' rights.

We welcome the long-standing and commendable role of the ILO in Myanmar, and with the full participation of the social partners, to ensure real progress towards compliance with international labour standards, including the elimination of child labour and forced labour. This work is key to support efforts to enhance democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This critical resolution helps underscore our collective tripartite resolve. We reiterate our strong support for this resolution and look forward to taking stock of developments, including through the upcoming Governing Body meetings this year.

## Ms Goodyear Government (United States of America)

The United States fully endorses the adoption of this resolution by the International Labour Conference. It is a unified and urgent call for an end to human rights and labour rights violations and abuses in the country.

We welcome the strong support of the Conference for continued ILO leadership in the long-standing call for democracy in the country and for an inclusive social and economic order, underpinned by respect for fundamental workers' rights.

The situation continues to deteriorate rapidly. The economic and humanitarian situation is worsening. Over 800 people have already died at the hands of the military and security forces. Violence against the civilian population has escalated and human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests and detention, abound. Trade unionists and others are targeted for their leadership in the civil disobedience movement, in opposition to the military coup.

We stand with the people, the workers, employers; the people of the country who recently expressed their will through participation in the 2020 general election. We stand with them in their pursuit of the restoration of civilian rule and the resumption of a transition to democracy. We strongly urge all ILO constituents, governments and workers' and employers' organizations to view this resolution as an affirmation of their full support for the people of the country, including the Rohingya and other ethnic and religious minorities, and a call to action to end the ongoing human rights abuses and respect the will of the people as expressed in the November 2020 election.

We thank the Office, and particularly the Liaison Office of the ILO, for its continued leadership and support to the people of the country. The United States will continue to provide its strong support to the people in their efforts to restore the democratic transition.

## **Announcement of the results of the record vote on the abrogation or withdrawal of 29 international labour instruments**

### **The President**

With regard to the vote on the abrogation or withdrawal of international labour instruments, I am pleased to announce that the 29 instruments listed below have been abrogated or withdrawn.

### **Abrogated Conventions**

1. Unemployment Indemnity (Shipwreck) Convention, 1920 (No. 8)
2. Placing of Seamen Convention, 1920 (No. 9)
3. Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921 (No. 16)
4. Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936 (No. 53)
5. Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 73)
6. Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 (No. 74)
7. Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 91)
8. Continuity of Employment (Seafarers) Convention, 1976 (No. 145)

### **Withdrawn Conventions**

9. Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (No. 7)
10. Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention, 1933 (No. 34)
11. Holidays with Pay (Sea) Convention, 1936 (No. 54)
12. Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention, 1936 (No. 57)
13. Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 72)
14. Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention, 1946 (No. 76)
15. Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 93)
16. Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1958 (No. 109)
17. Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996 (No. 179)
18. Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996 (No. 180)

### **Withdrawn Recommendations**

19. Repatriation (Ship Masters and Apprentices) Recommendation, 1926 (No. 27)
20. Prevention of Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1929 (No. 31)
21. Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Recommendation, 1936 (No. 49)
22. Seafarers' Engagement (Foreign Vessels) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 107)

23. Vocational Training (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1970 (No. 137)
24. Employment of Seafarers (Technical Developments) Recommendation, 1970 (No. 139)
25. Protection of Young Seafarers Recommendation, 1976 (No. 153)
26. Continuity of Employment (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1976 (No. 154)
27. Repatriation of Seafarers Recommendation, 1987 (No. 174)
28. Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Recommendation, 1996 (No. 186)
29. Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187)

Thank you all for your votes. The results of the votes have been published on the Conference website.<sup>1</sup>

**(The Conference continues its work in plenary.)**

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<sup>1</sup> Results of the record vote on the abrogation of 8 international labour Conventions and Results of the record vote on the withdrawal of 10 international labour Conventions and 11 Recommendations.