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**STATEMENT BY ACTING PRESIDENT DUWA LASHI LA  
MARKING THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRING REVOLUTION**

**1 February 2024**

I have the honour to issue this statement to the international community, having earlier addressed the Myanmar people.

Today is the third anniversary of our Spring Revolution. It marks three years of renewed resistance, resilience, sacrifice, unity and momentum by the Myanmar people.

Our refusal to surrender our lives, freedom and democracy to one of the world's most brutal militaries stands as a shining example. It has demanded extraordinary courage and self-sacrifice. I salute all of our fallen martyrs and share my deepest sympathies with their families. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to every single person who has defied the criminal junta.

Today, the Spring Revolution is stronger than ever.

The National Unity Government, the National Unity Consultative Council and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are firmly committed to delivering on the Federal Democracy Charter's promise of peace, freedom, justice, equality and self-determination.

Revolutionary Forces have made stunning gains due to the commitment, professionalism and bravery of our Ethnic Revolutionary Organisations and People's Defence Forces. In recent months, they have liberated dozens of towns, secured hundreds of military bases and outposts, and claimed key routes and border crossings. The unprecedented numbers of junta troops deserting and surrendering – including brigadier generals and entire battalions – are an historic humiliation for the military.

Civil society and local humanitarian organizations are saving lives through their principled actions at enormous personal risk. They are a compass for our collective conscience.

The Civil Disobedience Movement and its strategic social campaigns are draining the junta's war machine of its corrupt income.

These triumphs have shattered a decades-old myth: that the Myanmar people can never topple the military. This myth has been replaced by the evident truth that the criminal military will never crush the will of our people.

The Myanmar people's remarkable progress and the military junta's plummeting morale has finally forced a growing international acceptance that the Myanmar people can – and will – prevail.

In the months ahead, the National Unity Government and its ethnic and civil society partners will capitalise on these gains.

We will continue to prioritise security, stability and ethnic unity.

We will fortify our positions and expand our coordination and cooperation to advance our shared pursuit of equal rights, self-determination and democratic principles.

We will expand our service provision and delivery of humanitarian assistance, and ready our transition and reconstruction plans.

We will remain an actor for good committed to our international obligations, and partner with our neighbours to advance mutual security, prosperity and sustainable development.

I express my deep gratitude to our likeminded friends – including Australia, Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States – who have today expressed their sustained support for our Spring Revolution and have strengthened their punitive measures against the junta.

It is past time for the international community to join them in a consolidated front of support for Myanmar's people.

The uncomfortable truth is that, for three years now, our people have fought a war on two fronts. One front has been our war against the junta. The other front is our continuing battle against the international community's lingering doubts.

At first, the international community doubted that our popular protests could succeed. Then it doubted that our armed resistance could withstand the junta's brutality. Next it doubted that the National Unity Government and its ethnic partners could deliver services to our people. Now it doubts that our ethnic unity will hold.

In every instance we have proved the doubters wrong. It is time for the international community to trade its doubt for belief and decisive support for the Myanmar people.

And so I repeat my calls on the international community to:

- 1. Formally recognise the National Unity Government and its ethnic partners. Our popular support, expansive territorial control, large-scale service provision and democratic legitimacy demand it.** In its desperation, the junta will become even more barbarous, inflicting ever more vicious atrocities on civilians. The surest way to save lives and to end the conflict is by supporting a swift transition to full National Unity Government and ethnic control.
- 2. Increase your direct financial, technical, material and humanitarian assistance –** including through cross-border channels – to ensure that we can expand our service

provision to all people in need. We also urgently need early warning and anti-aircraft defence systems to protect our communities against the junta's escalating airstrikes.

3. **Block the junta's access to arms, weapons, cash and jet fuel.** Starve it of its capacity to kill civilians.
4. **Reject any junta attempts to launch a negotiated settlement as a lifeline.** No matter what the junta says or does, it is nothing more than a criminal cartel that has murdered and displaced thousands of civilians, wiped out more than a decade of Myanmar's economic and social progress, and plunged our region into crisis.

There is still time for the international community – ASEAN, the United Nations, our neighbours and other nations – to stand with us on the right side of history.

The military must be made permanently subordinate to an elected civilian government. Now is when the cycle of dictatorships ends.

The Myanmar people stand firm in their resolve to deliver a truly federal Myanmar that is united, free and fair.

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