

/ JUNE 2021 /

# / MYANMAR WOMEN LEADERS' INITIATIVE /

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This **GWL Voices** initiative supports women's political leadership to deal with the multiple crises facing Myanmar. The **Myanmar National Unity Government** (NUG) has the most women and diverse cabinet ministers in the history of the country many of whom come from civil society, from the women's movement and youth movements.

The GWL Voices core group consisting of **Mary Robinson, Melanne Vermeer** and **Noeleen Heyzer** met with **four women ministers of the Myanmar National Unity Government** (NUG):

- **Zin Mar Aung** – Union Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Susanna Hla Hla Soe**, Union Minister, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs
- **Ei Thinzar Maung** – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs
- **Stella Naw** – Deputy Minister, Ministry of International Cooperation

# / Four possible areas /

The meeting explored **four possible areas of supportive relationship** between women leaders from the Global Women Leaders, Voices for Change and Inclusion (GWL Voices) network and the women ministers:



**Sharing of experiences** and good practices to help develop women leadership effectively address the key challenges Myanmar is facing



Learning and using **multilateral frameworks** and related opportunities to achieve political transition that will bring about positive change for the people of Myanmar



Developing **women's leadership** in support of inclusive politics and development in peace building and state building



Using **foreign diplomacy** effectively particularly in relation to the ASEAN five-point consensus and the UN Security Council

## / Different Visions for Myanmar's Future and Mediation /



The Tamadaw that took power through the military coup on 1 February and the NUG have two very different visions for Myanmar's future. People are fighting to initiate a more inclusive socio-economic and political transformation to what they have experienced under previous military rule. Bringing two very different sides to dialogue and come up with a roadmap and clear steps on how to reach a more hopeful future for the people of Myanmar is a huge challenge.



There is an opportunity for ASEAN and its dialogue partners to play a constructive facilitating role if they act urgently. Otherwise, we will see a descend into years of chaos, a humanitarian catastrophe in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, as well as the growth of the multibillion-dollar illicit economy in the heart of ASEAN.



The ASEAN Cooperation - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia together with the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators will be organizing the Regional Forum of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators. This event will be opened by the Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi of Indonesia. Noeleen Heyzer will moderate the "Dialogue on Women and Conflicts in Southeast Asia" in which steering committee members of the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators will be sharing their experiences and perspectives in dealing with conflicts in Southeast Asia. The panel is expected to make concrete recommendations on how women negotiators and mediators can contribute more to the resolution of conflicts in Southeast Asia, especially in Myanmar.

# ABOUT GWL VOICES

**GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion** brought together women who, as part of their individual profiles and professional trajectories, have forged significant contributions from the unifying perspective of multilateral agendas for promoting humanitarian relief, advocating for human rights principles and normative policies, advancing sustainable development, and seeking to lend solution to some of the world's most complex conflicts and challenges.

## OUR OBJECTIVE



**Call attention to and create awareness of the need to achieve full gender equality and empowerment of women across all ambits of society and the critical importance of multilateralism as a vehicle in support of this core objective towards building more inclusive and equitable societies.**



**DISCOVER OUR ACTIONS**

# #GWLvoices

