



OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
KAREN NATIONAL UNION
KAWTHOOLEI
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Statement on the Review of Peace Process

Date: June 23, 2017

1. KNU Central Standing Committee members, together with leaders who are involved in the peace process, altogether 80 participants, held a Peace Process Review Workshop at Lay Wah from 12 – 23 June 2017.
2. During that workshop, the State and National level Ceasefire Agreements signed in 2012, the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation signed in 2015, and the agreements in Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed in 2015 between KNU and the Government were all reviewed.
3. The whole peace process, the procedural guidelines, structure, implementation, and decision-making process of the support mechanisms, such as the JICM (Joint Implementation and Coordination Meeting), UPDJC (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee), Secretariat of UPDJC, Working Committee of UPDJC, JMC (Joint Monitoring Committee), JCB (Joint Coordination Body of Peace Fund), Steering Committee of National Dialogue, Regional, Ethnic and Thematic based National Dialogue, and the 21 Century Panglong - Union Peace Conference were also reviewed.
4. It was recognized that during the implementation process of the NCA, there were weaknesses and shortcomings in the support mechanisms of the NCA, and the support mechanisms were not in compliance with the principles, concepts and commitments originally made in the NCA. Thus, there were flaws at every level concerning the foundations of genuineness, equality and fairness.
5. We found out that these shortcomings were aggravated especially because the political dialogues were carried out while the final agreement on the political framework had not yet been reached.
6. Thus, for both accountability and transparency, we would like to inform organizations from local and international, involved in the peace process, including local and international delegates who signed the NCA as witnesses, and the general public of our findings and recommendations as follows.
 - a. To review, scrutinize, and amend the basic principles of the composition, representation, decision-making, and meeting management of UPDJC;
 - b. To jointly assign independent and professional personnel in the secretariat of UPDJC in order to encourage the development of sustainable peace;

- c. To widely implement regional, ethnic and issues based national dialogues across the nation as originally agreed;
 - d. To review, amend and comply with the ToRs for the Committees including the Steering Committee for regional, ethnic and thematic based national dialogues, the Working Committee of UPDJC, the Secretariats of UPDJC, JICM which are the principal mechanisms of the peace process;
 - e. To reconsider agreeing the negotiation space for the entire peace process to be the Working Committee of UPDJC and 21st Century Panglong - Union Peace Conference;
 - f. To coordinate among the concerned parties, the foundations for equality and equal access to support mechanisms between the negotiating partners, where the setting for different views can be genuinely negotiated, and sufficient time is given for political dialogues.
7. It is recognized that there is an urgent need to sincerely negotiate and seek common ground relating to the implementation of the NCA by all the signatories, in order to make the peace process a success.
 8. Since the successful implementation of NCA is directly related to internal peace and national reconciliation, and as the KNU is one of the implementing organizations, the KNU will continue to seek resolutions in order for the successful implementation of a genuine peace process.

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