



# PRESS RELEASE

U . S . E M B A S S Y R A N G O O N

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

August 31, 2016

## **U.S. Embassy Statement on Opening Ceremony of Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong**

The United States welcomes the opening ceremony on August 31 of the “Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong” and commends all participants for their willingness to engage in an inclusive dialogue for national reconciliation and unity. This is an important process toward a lasting peace, and the first step in an inclusive political dialogue that can help transform the country into a more democratic union, in which the rights of all people of Myanmar are fully respected. As a nation that has worked hard to draw strength and harmony from ethnic and religious diversity, the United States recognizes that this will be a long and challenging process that requires commitment from all people and institutions, both inside and outside the conference hall. The United States will continue to support this process and those who work in good faith—which includes dedication to the articulation and consideration of differing points of view— to bring an end to civil conflict in Myanmar, and to achieve durable peace that benefits and empowers all of its people.

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