



ညီညွတ်သောတိုင်းရင်းသားလူမျိုးများဖက်ဒရယ်ကောင်စီ
UNITED NATIONALITIES FEDERAL COUNCIL (UNION OF BURMA)

United Nationalities Federal Council New Year Felicitation Letter

The year 2014 has gone and the New Year of 2015 has dawn on the World. The UNFC hereby submits to the people its view, belief and approach regarding the Union, in order to make the 2015 a year of auspiciousness by discarding the old year's conflicts, vindictiveness, malice etc. and bringing only positive things into the new year.

1. In this Union land, various ethnic nationalities had lived with their own sovereignty, domain and freedom. After that all had to live together in servitude under the occupation and rule of the British colonialists, for many years. In order to regain the lost freedom and sovereignty together and establish also the Union, the Panglong Conference was held in 1947 and Bogyoke Aung San himself signed the agreement. It is necessary to seriously appreciate and recognize this background history.
2. The Panglong Agreement was signed, with unity, to establish collectively a great Union, on the foundation where the various national states had the rights to exercise democracy, national equality and self-determination. However, after the independence was gained, the authorities in power failed to materialize the pledge and, after the seizure of power by the military in 1962, the practice of egregious dictatorship for over half a century caused the fire of civil war to burn and destroy many lives and properties and much valuable jewelry, and underground natural properties were lost in the fire. Only when a Federal Union is established in compliance with the historical background mentioned above and the fire of civil war is extinguished correctly, a State with justice, peace and development will come into being.
3. Though nationwide ceasefire is vital for politically negotiated settlement of the problems relating to the Union, the realization of it alone cannot lead to genuine peace. Some of the other core and serious problems relating to the populace can be highlighted and resolved and, at the same time as the nationwide ceasefire is achieved, it is necessary to arrive at a firm agreement:
 - a) To establish a genuine Federal Union composed of national states with full rights to exercise democracy, national equality and self-determination (in accordance with the Federal Constitution); and
 - b) To collectively endeavor, with a view to sustain and transform legally the ethnic nationality resistance forces, which are waging national resistance war, for the emergence of the one and only Federal Union Armed Forces. This is for the capacity to genuinely support for peace by making all the armed forces in the Federal Union to reach homogeneously and consistently, under a single rule-of-law framework.
4. Peace is a value that should exist in a civilized human society. It is true that the absence of war and conflict is a characteristic of peace. However, just the absence of war does not mean peace. For this reason, it has become necessary to examine systematically what peace is. If we do not know precisely what we are searching dearly for, we would be on a wild goose chase and we will never get it firmly in our own grips. Peace means, the existence of three characteristics, in the entire realm of the Federal Union, which are:
 - (1) Absence of unlawful violence;
 - (2) Absence of unlawful repression and loss of rights;
 - (3) Existence of impartial bodies and mechanisms for the people to petition effectively for action, if and when the unlawful acts, mentioned above, arise.

On its part, the UNFC shall strive unwaveringly for the institution of peace underlined by the three characteristics.

5. In connection with land, the local people are suffering from unlawful violence, repression and loss of their legitimate rights. Such things are basically due to the failure to respect the rights of land tillers to individually own a limited piece of land and, in each national state, the rights of the local people to collective own and work the land etc., according to law. Though lack of impartial bodies and mechanisms for the people to petition effectively for action to redress the grievances and loss of their rights, with regard to land, has not caused war to break out, there is no peace for the people in the localities.
6. It is the entire people, made up of the ethnic nationalities, who have to suffer due to the ruin and loss of peace. The UNFC would like to give the good news, at the beginning of the New Year, that it will continue to strive relentlessly, hand in hand, with the genuine mass organizations, which insistently stand and struggle for the legitimate rights of the said people, from the basis of human rights, rule of law, ethnic national equality and self-determination, until the entire people can enjoy true peace.
7. It will be necessary to leave behind the old ideas and approach with new ideas, for 2015 to be an auspicious New Year. What are those? The ethnic nationalities are not the people who have only founded together the Union but they are also the co-owners. It is required to recognize the fact, intently. One nationality only should not own the Union, exclusively. It will be beneficial effectively for the country as well as the entire people, made up of the various ethnic nationalities, only when the ethnic nationalities are approached, with honesty and sincerity, and all the main problems are resolved frankly, through discussion and dialogue, on the basis of equality, and so on.
8. History is truth. Truth is fidelity for the World. Viewing history truthfully and accepting it, striving to renovate and rebuild the Union based on true history and, if effort is made to find the solutions not superficially but essentially and collectively, with the realization of their value, for the main problems, which have their roots in history, the prize of true internal peace will definitely come within reach is the good news in the UNFC New Year felicitation for the entire people made up of various ethnic nationalities.

**Central Executive Committee
The United Nationalities Federal Council
January 5, 2015**