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Finnish Development NGOs Fingo calls for an immediate international response to safeguard democracy, human rights and civic space in Myanmar

As the umbrella organisation of 300 development organisations in Finland, Fingo strongly condemns the military coup that took place on February 1st in Myanmar which has suspended civilian government and effectively grabbed full power to the military, and the associated violence. Reports on disruption of internet connections, social media, and phone lines throughout the country as well as news on activists being arbitrarily arrested and journalists beaten raise grave concern. These actions are strictly unacceptable.

The international community, Finland included, should urgently establish a comprehensive international response to safeguard democracy, human rights, and civic space in Myanmar.

Fingo calls on the Government of Finland to actively push for the protection of democratic decision-making, and denounce all human rights violations and violations on civic space and activists.

Fingo further calls for Finland to push for revoking the EU's trading system known as "Everything but Arms", bearing in mind that any possible sanctions should keep in mind the wellbeing and rights of people in most vulnerable positions in Myanmar.

Fingo also calls on the Myanmar military to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release all those currently arbitrarily detained;
- Ensure the safety of all civil society actors, including journalists;
- Immediately restore the Internet and all forms of communications, including social media; and
- Allow Parliament to resume and elected MPs to fulfil their mandate without impediment
- Respect the rights of the people of Myanmar to peacefully protest and express their opinions

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