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## PEACE TALK 2025 CONCLUDES IN MYANMAR WITH 12 SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS AND 10 LONG-TERM ACTION PLANS



The Peace Dialogue (PEACE TALK 2025) concluded on March 26 after a three-day meeting at the International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Discussions focused on political and security matters, as well as economic and national development. The meeting resulted in 12 short-term recommendations and 10 long-term action points aimed at advancing the peace process.

Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Lt-Gen Min Naing stated that the recommendations were carefully developed after extensive deliberations. He noted that additional points could be added after further review of the discussions. Among the key recommendations, the meeting emphasised the

urgent need to implement a ceasefire, reactivate the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee under the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), and initiate a review and modification of the NCA.

Local pilot projects were proposed to reduce conflict, with a focus on humanitarian aid, education and healthcare, involving local leaders and government officials. To build trust between the government and the public, the dialogue highlighted the importance of implementing public service reforms and swiftly carrying out agreements reached in past peace conferences.

Preparations for the post-election peace process were also recommended, along with efforts to facilitate negotiations through third-party mediators...

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Source: thestar.com.my

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# FAIR MYANMAR POLLS REMAIN A DISTANT DREAM DESPITE END OF EMERGENCY

On 31 July 2025, in a move that fulfils a legal requirement to prepare for a controversial general election now tentatively scheduled for December, Myanmar’s military regime officially ended its self-proclaimed state of emergency, in force since the coup of 1 February 2021, which overthrew the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The emergency period had been extended multiple times beyond the letter of its own military-drafted Constitution.

It simultaneously rebranded the State Administration Committee (SAC), its earlier ‘interim’ government, as the National Security and Peace Commission, with Senior General and Chief of Defence Forces Min Aung Hlaing as its Chairman, retired Lieutenant General Nyo Saw, formerly Quartermaster General, as ‘Prime Minister’, and seven other members – all but one, the Foreign Minister, from the military.

Although the emergency has been formally lifted, it remains unclear what difference this will make to the ongoing civil war, now in its fifth year, or to daily life for ordinary citizens. While the junta portrays the

step as a return to normalcy and a pathway to ‘civilian’ rule, the opposition and sections of the international community have denounced it as a political manoeuvre to legitimise its unpopular rule – a ‘show’ and a ‘ritual’ to entrench authoritarianism. Many opposition leaders remain imprisoned, in exile, or underground. Several political prisoners have died in jail under questionable circumstances, including some just days ago. Aung San Suu Kyi herself remains incarcerated, serving multiple sentences on politically motivated charges.

With much of the country gripped by civil war, key opposition parties sidelined or banned, and new electoral laws heavily stacked in the military’s favour, few expect the elections to be credible, free or fair, or to reflect the will of the people. Major opposition groups, including Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD), have pledged to boycott the polls.

### Junta’s calculations

There could be several reasons why the regime has taken this long-planned step.

First, it has introduced sweeping electoral reforms, changing the system from first-past-the-post to proportional representation – a shift that dilutes the influence of any single dominant party, notably the NLD, which secured landslide victories in 1990, 2015 and 2020.

These changes, combined with provisions in the 2008 Constitution heavily weighted in favour of the military – notably the direct nomination of serving military officers to 25% of Parliament by the military chief – along with new laws criminalising dissent, tighter registration requirements, and outright bans on key parties, have further compromised electoral integrity in an already skewed system.

The regime’s calculation is that, together with the propping up of newer political parties drawn from anti-NLD elements willing to collaborate, the military’s own party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), consisting predominantly of ex-military personnel,

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■ Source: deccanherald.com