On 9 June 2021, the Chairperson of the Workers’ group submitted to the President of the Conference a draft resolution under article 17, paragraph 2 of the Standing Orders calling for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar.

The Officers of the Conference have reviewed the draft resolution and unanimously consider that it relates to an urgent matter within the meaning of the above provision of the Standing Orders.

They therefore recommend to the Conference that it request the Selection Committee to review the draft resolution at the earliest possible opportunity and to report back to the Conference on its consideration, with any amendments thereto, by 18 June 2021.

The letter of the Chairperson of the Workers’ group and the text of the draft resolution are contained in the appendix.
Appendix

Draft resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar (presented by the Workers’ group)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,
Meeting at its 109th Session, on XXX June 2021,
Recalling the ILO’s long-standing commitment to respect of fundamental rights and democracy in Myanmar,
Expressing profound concern at the removal of the civilian Government by the military and at the developments since 1 February that resulted in arrests, intimidation, threats and acts of violence against trade unionists,

Deploring the death of over seven hundred people, including trade unionists, who were exercising their right to peaceful protest against the military coup,

Gravely concerned that the police and military raided trade union offices and homes, harassed and threatened trade unionists and their families, and placed trade union leaders on a wanted list in retaliation for their participation in strikes and demonstrations demanding a return to democracy,

Recalling that freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of opinion and expression are essential for the exercise of freedom of association and that all Member States have an obligation to apply fully, in law and in practice, the Conventions that they have voluntarily ratified,

Noting with deep concern the military's use of forced labour in areas of ongoing conflict and against ethnic minorities, particularly as conflict increases across the country,

Expressing full support for workers, unions and the general population engaged in peaceful protests and actions to demand a return to democracy,

1. Calls upon Myanmar to:
   
   (a) Restore democratic order and civilian rule in Myanmar, and - once the democratically elected government has been restored - to amend without delay the Civil Services Personnel Law, the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law and the Labour Organization Law, consistent with the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No.87) ratified by Myanmar;

   (b) Cease all attacks against workers and the general population, release from detention and drop any charges against trade unionists who have peacefully participated in protest activities;

   (c) Respect Convention No. 87 and ensure that workers and employers are able to exercise their freedom of association rights in a climate of freedom and security, free from violence, arbitrary arrest and detention;

   (d) Repeal any measures or orders curtailing freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

2. Recommends to constituents of the International Labour Organization that they take all possible measures and actions to press for the return to democracy in Myanmar.

3. Decides that the implementation of this resolution, along with the decisions of the 341st Session (March 2021) Governing Body, will be followed up by the Governing Body for any further consideration it may have, including in relation to the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference.