



Alþýðusamband Íslands

Intervention on behalf of the Nordic workers, Gylfi Arnbjörnsson President, Icelandic Confederation of Labour

Chairperson, delegates, honourable guests and last but not least,

Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi

It is my great honour on behalf of the Nordic Trade Union Confederations to pay tribute to you and your long and peaceful struggle for peace and democracy in Myanmar and for the respect for human and workers' rights.

We would also like to congratulate you as a highly respected person representing the people and workers' of Myanmar for the accomplishments already achieved in bringing about important changes in your country while also stating at the same time that we firmly believe that more needs to be done and that precaution and international surveillance is well advised. We also welcome the guarantees that have been given for the safe return of our colleagues from the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma back home to their country..

As you may be aware of, the Nordic Trade Union Confederations have very actively supported the crucial role that the ILO has played in helping to foster a solution for Myanmar as well as supporting the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma.

We would also like to thank you for the manner in which you have conducted your peaceful struggle for fundamental rights and democracy in Myanmar, for your dignity, focus and firm commitment to the cause of human rights and peace. It stands to remind us all, that the struggle for fundamental rights calls upon us all to show a high degree of stamina and persistence in our struggle and the importance of keeping a focus on the fact that we will and we must prevail. Our brothers and sisters all over the world depend upon us to keep on demanding dignity and human rights and you have certainly been an important inspiration and model for this on going work.

It is also an honour and a moment of joy for us to acknowledge that after 21 years you will at last be able to receive your well earned Nobel Peace Prize that you were awarded in 1991 for your non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.

Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi - Let me conclude by reaffirming our commitment and solidarity in the fight for fundamental rights and democracy for the people and the workers' in Myanmar and where ever in the world our brothers and sisters struggle for the respect of their rights as human beings and workers.

Thank you.