



**March 05, 2021**

## **Statement on Myanmar**

There are reports of continuing violence in Myanmar and the social and economic stability of the country remains fragile. It is against this backdrop that we call for a return to democratic norms and the rule of law. For any differences that exist to be resolved through peaceful dialogue, and for the right of assembly, freedom of opinion and expression, which constitute civil liberties, to be respected. We condone all forms of violence.

There should be no interference with the rights of workers to participate in peaceful protests and we join with the ILO Secretary General's recent call for Myanmar's current leaders: 'to uphold commitments under the [No. 87] Convention to ensure that workers and employers are able to exercise their freedom of association rights in a climate of complete freedom and security, free from violence and threats.'

We are engaged closely with international agencies and civil society to understand and monitor the impact on workers in our supply chain in Myanmar. Our primary concern is workers' safety and wellbeing, as well as the safety of the foreign nationals who work in our six partner factories. We are also concerned with the long-term prospects for the country, which in recent years had enjoyed strong economic growth, better paid jobs and reduced levels of poverty. These gains, together with the growth prospects for the coming years, are now put in jeopardy.