



## **ELECTION EDUCATION AND OBSERVATION PARTNERS**

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### **EEOP Pre-Election Statement November 5, 2015**

The EEOP, a coalition of 23 organizations from across Myanmar, is observing the election process, including the pre-election and campaign period, in all the regions and states of Myanmar (except Kachin and Kayin). This pre-election statement is based on information gathered from LTO reports, through an expert survey, and through a national voter survey.

#### **Campaign Environment**

Overall we find that the campaign environment has been relatively good, but still has some problem areas. Observers have reported to misuse of state resources by some parties in their campaign activities. There have also been isolated reports of vote-buying, and reports that some campaign activities have experience hindrance or restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly. In comparison to previous elections in 2010 and 2012 the campaign environment it is much improved, and the UEC, security forces and political parties should be commended for that.

#### **Voter Education**

CSO-provided voter education has been much more extensive and effective than that they were able to provide for elections in 2010 and 2012. The UEC has been providing voter information on television and radio. Still there is the perception among our observers and the general public that not everyone received all of the information they need to participate effectively in the election process.

#### **Election Administration**

Despite the best efforts of the UEC, we are still receiving reports of significant problems with the voter list, and there is concern that this could mean that many people are unable to cast their vote on Election Day. Although the UEC is acknowledged by all to have significantly improved since previous elections, observers have noted that senior leaders at the regional and national level are predominantly ex-military, and there remains the worry among the public and observers that election administration may be politicized or biased in some areas.



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### **Recommendations**

#### **Recommendations for the Union Election Commission**

- Our greatest concern for Election Day is the potential for violence, driven by religious extremists or other “angry” groups. The UEC, police and security forces should fully prepare to protect voters.
- There is also worry that in some places observers will be prevented from observing all aspects of the polling and counting process. The UEC should make clear to all polling staff that the presence of observers is critical for the overall credibility of the polling and counting processes.

#### **Recommendations for the Voters**

- We suggest voters to go and check the voter list on the remaining two days to be able to practice their voting right on the Election Day.
- Moreover, we suggest voters to file objection form for deceased persons and unidentifiable voters.
- We also suggest migrant labors who are still not in the voter list to discuss with their supervisors to help them with their voter registration process.

#### **Recommendations for the Political Parties**

- Political parties should assist voters facing problems with voter lists and other difficulties.
- Political parties also should coordinate with respective officials in the case of emerging violence and electoral frauds on Election Day.
- We strongly suggest political parties to use Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) system to verify the official election results. If PVT is not possible, take photos of the election results from every polling stations.