



Office of the Auditor
General of Norway

Executive officer	
Øivind Berg Larsen +47	
Our date	Our reference
23.02.2021	2021/00101-15
Your date	Your reference

Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar

Office Building No 12
NAY PYI TAW
Myanmar

OAG Norway's cooperation with OAG Myanmar is put on hold until further notice

Reference is made to the MOU that was signed between the Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar and the Office of the Auditor general of Norway on the 3rd of October 2016.

Our two institutions have had a close and mutually beneficial collaboration since 2016. We have witnessed how OAG Myanmar has made huge improvement in relation to international standards for public auditing. We have also seen impressive dedication from the OAGM staff. The collaboration also been a source of growth and learning for the advisors from OAG Norway working on the project.

The military coup on the 1st of February 2021 changed dramatically the context in which OAG Myanmar operates. These changes are of such a nature that they affect the impact of our collaboration activities. Of relevance is that the elected Parliament, the recipient of the audit reports made by the OAG, is no longer able to conduct sessions. We also understand that there now is a new Auditor General that was appointed through the state of emergency procedures. This affects the independence of OAG Myanmar, which is essential for the effectiveness of a Supreme Audit Institution.

Additionally, on the 18th of February the Norwegian Government decided to put all state-to-state institutional collaborations between Norway and Myanmar on hold. In a press release the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Søreide states "Norway was one of the first countries to condemn the military coup on Monday 1 February and has demanded the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratically elected politicians, journalists and representatives of civil society organisations. Norway has also asked those responsible for the coup to adhere to democratic norms, reinstate the Government and respect the outcome of the November 2020 election."

As a consequence of the above-mentioned elements, we have decided to put on hold all activities under the framework of the existing MOU until further notice.

Yours sincerely,

Per-Kristian Foss
Auditor General of Norway

This letter is sent without a written signature due to the Covid-19 situation. It has been approved by the Auditor General from his home office.