

COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS FOR MYANMAR'S PEACE PROCESS



The peace process provides an opportunity to address the underlying causes of conflict in our country. Although our country is unique, there are common patterns in peace and conflict internationally that we can learn from. These infographics compare international experience of peace processes to our situation, and provide advice about what we can do to realise the huge benefits of peace.

Political solutions are the best strategy to end armed conflicts



Negotiating comprehensive peace agreements is a highly successful strategy to end civil wars. In the 31 countries that have signed and fully implemented comprehensive peace agreements since 1989, there has been an **84% success rate in preventing a return to violence.**

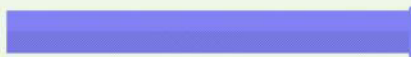
Military strategies on the other hand are not a very successful way to end civil wars, especially when there are multiple opposition groups.

International



Since 1989 **no country has ever defeated more than two internal opposition groups** in the same year.

Myanmar



Myanmar has up to 21 ethnic armed organisations.



The longer that groups have been fighting each other, the less likely that the conflict can be ended militarily. Based on international experience, the chance of a military conclusion to the war falls to 25% by one year. By three years, the chance has decreased to 10%. In comparison, most of our conflicts have continued for more than half a century. To create peace, we need political solutions.





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The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is a good start to ending the war in our country, but ceasefires alone are not enough to end conflict forever. Since 1989, Myanmar has had close to 50 agreements about ceasefires or other security issues, but we still have war every day in some parts of our country. We have never had a single comprehensive peace agreement that addresses the root causes of our fighting. The 21st Century Panglong conferences provides the opportunity for us to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. In Myanmar a Comprehensive Peace Agreement is known as the 'Union Accord'.



Comprehensive peace agreements are defined as:

- ① Including all of the main groups.
- ② Addressing political, social and economic, as well as security issues.



Our peace process needs to be more inclusive.

Less than half of the country's EAOs are included in the NCA. This represents only 20% of EAOs' total troops. International experience suggests that we won't succeed if we can't include more. Inclusivity should be the key priority, even if it requires significant changes in approach.



We need to address the root causes of the conflict, not just security issues.



Since 1989 80% of security focused agreements worldwide have eventually failed if political, social, and economic issues were not also agreed to.

Since 1989 more than 80% of comprehensive peace agreements worldwide have succeeded. Comprehensive peace agreements include a wide range of political, social, and economic issues.

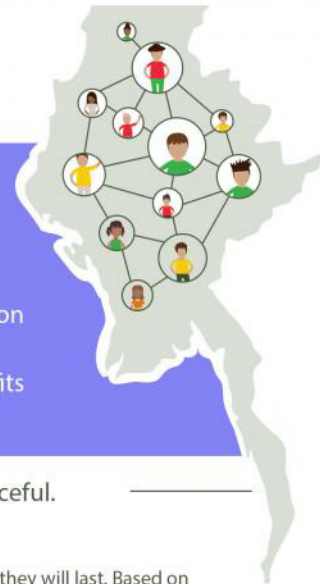


Myanmar has had close to 50 security related agreements since 1989. These have not been successful in ending the conflict. Ceasefire agreements like the NCA are an important step on the pathway to peace, but we need further dialog to reach a Comprehensive Peace Agreement - the Union Accord.

Security-focused agreements focus mostly on issues like ceasefires, disarmament, or security sector reform. Comprehensive peace agreements include provisions related to social, political and economic issues, as well as security concerns. Ceasefires are primarily security related agreements, which in some cases include guarantees for further political dialog. International experience shows that the more issues that are included in peace agreements, the longer the resulting peace will last, and the more benefits will be experienced by the people.

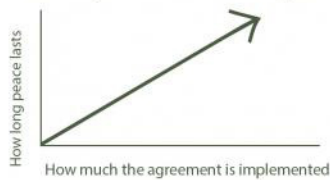


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Peace agreements only work if they are implemented. In our country, we often have not kept the promises we made. Sometimes this is because some groups don't have the resources needed. Other times political will is questioned. When we do keep promises there are multiple benefits. Implementation guards against a return to violence. Higher implementation generates a longer lasting peace. Implementation builds trust, and encourages others to join the process. Implementation brings huge benefits for the whole country, showing us that peace truly is a national priority.

If we implemented our agreements, the country would become more peaceful.



The more we implement our agreements, the longer they will last. Based on international experience, an agreement that is 80% implemented lasts on average two and half times longer than an agreement that is 40% implemented.

Other groups would join the process.

Based on comparative experience, if Myanmar implemented a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, most remaining groups would join the process.



A comprehensive peace agreement brings a range of benefits that are good for everyone.

Implementing a comprehensive peace agreement would bring large improvements in employment, education, and health of the people. If comprehensive peace agreements are fully implemented, on average:



Foreign Direct Investment doubles over a decade.



The economy grows by an additional 5%.



Primary school enrollment increases by 17% for girls and 14% for boys.



The under 5 child mortality rate declines by at least 20%

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

The University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies is one of the world's leading centers for the study of conflict and strategies for sustainable peace. The Kroc Institute's Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) has collected and organized data between 1989 and 2012 concerning peace agreement content and implementation. The analysis of this data provides lessons and options for conflict parties and peacebuilders to improve ongoing peace processes, based on decades of international experience. The New York Times, Public Radio International, Aftenposten and many others have cited PAM researchers. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos recognized the Kroc Institute's PAM project in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in December 2016.

SOURCES:

- International data is sourced from the Kroc Institute's Peace Accord Matrix (PAM) at the University of Notre Dame: <https://peaceaccords.nd.edu/>, and the Uppsala Conflict Data Program <http://ucdp.uu.se/>.
- Myanmar data is sourced from Burma News International and the Myanmar Peace Monitor www.mmpacemonitor.org