



Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations, Geneva.

Press Release No. 1/2009

**Supplementary Understanding for the elimination of forced labour
in Myanmar extended**

Following an ILO mission led by Executive Director Mr. Kari Tapiola to Myanmar which took place from 24 February to 1 March this year, the Supplementary Understanding between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the ILO establishing a complaint mechanism was extended on 26 February 2009 for a further period of one year. In this regard, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has issued the Press Release as a High Level Statement in the daily local newspapers on the stipulated date. The following is the text of the said Press Release issued in Nay Pyi Taw:

Quote (.)

The Government of the Union of Myanmar and the International Labour Office (ILO) today extended the Supplementary Understanding on the treatment of complaints regarding forced labour for a further twelve months.

This Supplementary Understanding supports the application of existing laws prohibiting the use of forced labour in Myanmar. It provides a complaints' mechanism, facilitated by the ILO Liaison Officer in Yangon. Under Article 1 of the Supplementary Understanding, Myanmar citizens can, with protection from reprisal, seek justice under the law if they are subjected to forced labour.

In welcoming the signing of the extension, the Minister of Labour, His Excellency U Aung Kyi stated that he *"welcomed this continuation of the cooperation between the Government and the ILO which once again confirms the Government of Myanmar's high level commitment to its policy for the prohibition of forced labour"*. The Minister stated further that *"the Supplementary Understanding supports the Government's political commitment to the eradication of forced labour. The rights of citizens are fully guaranteed under the title, Citizen: Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens in Chapter (VIII), and the provision on the prohibition of forced labour in Section 359 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which was ratified by the referendum held in May 2008."*

Unquote (.)

Geneva, 3 March 2009.