Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Myanmar voted for when it was adopted in 1948, recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Similarly, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), to which Myanmar is a party, also recognizes in its paragraph 38 that every person and the peoples of ASEAN have the right to enjoy peace.

To fully enjoy these rights requires peace as a prior and essential condition. It needs not be overemphasized that the lack of peace in Myanmar has given rise to many serious deprivations and difficulties for its citizens for the last several decades. It is high time that these unfortunate conditions are dealt with effectively and once and for all in the interest of current and future generations of Myanmar.

The initiative of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to engage in peace talks with ethnic armed organizations in person, therefore, is a gigantic and forward-looking step in the right direction and the rarest chance of its kind to be seized by all peace-loving people.

The MNHRC wishes to urge all concerned to make every effort to realize the full potential of these envisaged peace talks with a view to establishing lasting peace in the entire country for the benefit of the citizens of Myanmar.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 28 April 2022