

POLICY BRIEF

TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND NUG REFORM





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THE SWISS-MODEL FEDERAL COUNCIL: TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MYANMAR

Stakeholders within the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and broader participants of the Spring Revolution have consistently called for structural reform of the National Unity Government (NUG). Central to this debate is whether the revolution has entered a transitional phase and how a restructured executive can serve as a bridge to a future Federal Democratic Union. This policy brief contends that adopting a "Swiss-style" collective Federal Council is the most practical way to achieve ethnic inclusivity and maintain political stability during the transition.

The summarized roadmap is structured as follows:

1. Maintaining public support for the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).
2. Establishing parliamentary committees via elected representatives.
3. Formalizing political agreements with Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) and civil society.
4. Ratifying the Federal Democracy Charter.
5. Establishing the Interim National Unity Government (NUG) and judicial institutions.
6. Convening a People's Assembly to eliminate authoritarianism.
7. Abolishing the 2008 Constitution and implementing a federal strategy.
8. Drafting a Transitional Constitution.
9. Forming a Transitional Government.
10. Convening a Constituent Assembly to draft a permanent Federal Constitution.
11. Ratifying the Constitution via referendum and holding national elections.
12. Establishing a permanent legislative, executive, and judicial branch.

The Strategic Pivot: As the movement advances from Step 8 to Step 9, it becomes clear that the NUG's main objective was to act as an interim authority. The creation of a "Transitional Government" marks a different political phase, requiring a wider coalition beyond the current NUG structure.

Evidence of the Transitional Phase

The transition has effectively begun in the "liberated areas" under the control of EROs and local resistance authorities. The decentralization of services—including the NUG's provision of public administration and security—shows that governance is moving away from the junta's centralized control toward a more pluralistic, federal system. Additionally, as the military regime tries to create legitimacy through "sham" elections, the resistance must respond with a stronger political push: a legitimate, multi-ethnic transitional government.

The Swiss Model Federal Council: A Comparative Analysis

Myanmar aims to end the long-standing dominance of a single ethnic group and build a system where power is shared equally among states. While the United States (Presidential) and the United Kingdom (Parliamentary) provide established models, they often rely on "winner-take-all" systems that can push minorities aside.

The Swiss Model Advantage: Switzerland uses a Federal Council made up of seven members who act as a collective head of state and government.

- **Consensus-Based Decision Making:** All major policy choices are determined through negotiation and collective agreement.
- **Rotating Presidency:** A president is elected each year from within the Council to serve mainly in a ceremonial role, preventing the accumulation of power in a single person.
- **Grand Coalition:** The Council includes all major political and ethnic groups, making sure the executive branch operates as a lasting "Grand Coalition."
- **Minority Veto:** This system promotes a "culture of compromise" instead of majority rule, allowing smaller groups to safeguard their core interests.

Proposed Framework for a Myanmar Grand Coalition

A reformed executive needs to move beyond the "resistance government" phase toward a "founding federal government." The proposed Federal Council of Myanmar should include:

- **Double Legitimacy Integration:**
 1. Electoral legitimacy is represented by the parliamentarians elected in 2020 (CRPH).
 2. Territorial or De Facto Legitimacy: Shown by ERO leaders who hold real authority over liberated regions.
- **A Two-Tiered Executive:**
 1. The Federal Council: A diverse leadership group that directs top-level politics and policy.
 2. The Reformed NUG: An efficient administrative group tasked with implementing the Council's policies

Addressing Legal and Political Legitimacy

Critics may debate the expiration of the 2020 electoral mandate. However, in the context of an ongoing war for democracy, legitimacy is not just about dates but also about popular support and continued resistance against tyranny.

- **Elected Officials:** Their mandate remains valid as long as the revolution continues under the Federal Democracy Charter, ending only when a legitimate federal election is possible.
- **ERO Leaders:** Their de facto legitimacy is undeniable, stemming from their role in protecting populations and providing the military momentum necessary to dismantle the dictatorship.

Conclusion

The Spring Revolution has reached its most critical point. To shift from resistance to a sustainable future, the movement must formalize its unity. Transforming the NUG into a Swiss-style, multi-ethnic Federal Council will not only ensure the transition but also lay the essential foundation for a Federal Democratic Union based on equality, autonomy, and social justice.