

**Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into certain aspects of the Department of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2019-20
Public Hearing 13 May 2021**

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

007 – Public Hearing – 13 May 2021

Topic: International Labour Organization

Mr Julian Hill MP

Question

Mr HILL: Thank you. With regard to recognition—a couple of specifics—the annual meeting of the International Labour Organization will be held on 27 May. Given the increasing violence and targeting of union leaders and workers in Myanmar and the growing recognition of the NUG as the rightful government of Myanmar, how will DFAT support efforts to block the credentials of the junta at this important global meeting? Can you commit that Australia will not support recognition of the junta in the ILO, for instance?

Mrs Worthaisong: Australia has been very active in seeking to do that in all fora where it's been raised with us. I just can't bring to mind whether we've had engagement on the ILO. I suspect we have. We might need to get back to you specifically on the ILO, but certainly, as I said, in other fora we have engaged with other international organisations specifically to ensure that there is no recognition.

Mr HILL: Can you take that on notice? Is it possible to get a very quick answer in the next few days, given the meeting is on 22 May.

Mrs Worthaisong: Sure. Absolutely. We'll look into it straightaway.

Answer

- The first segment of the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) ran from 20 May to 19 June.
- Australia is not currently a member of the Credentials Committee of the ILC.
- The Credentials Committee noted in its report of 7 June 2021 that, as competing credentials for Myanmar were received, the Committee considered it could not accredit delegates from Myanmar at this time.
- Australia supports the position that, in instances where competing credentials are submitted to UN bodies, a decision should be deferred until the UN General Assembly has taken a position on the recognition of credentials for the country in question.