

ROUNDTABLE

People-Led Solutions for a Federal Democratic Burma

Coordinator

Brishan Reilly, Brishan Reilly

Roundtable Description

The resistance to the 2021 attempted coup by the military junta centers on the vision of a genuine Federal democratic nation. Much of the discourse so far has predominantly focused on political arrangements. Consequently, a critical policy gap remains regarding other frameworks, such as the economic structure, that are needed to dismantle the unjust, hierarchical legacy of successive military regimes. This roundtable explores how affected communities are actively bridging this gap by placing people at the heart of policymaking.

Drawing from the three-year Inclusive Federal Economic Policy project, which generated 437 economic recommendations across eight sectors, this session shifts the focus away from traditional top-down, expert-led governance. Instead, it highlights the bottom-up agenda-setting of diverse peoples, including Rohingya, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and women and youth groups. Panelists will unpack the methodologies used to build an economic vision centered on human rights and equity, exploring the potential of economic transitional justice at the intersection of climate change, conflict, and care work.

What Will This Roundtable Cover?

To directly address the practicalities and challenges of inclusive policy development, the discussion will feature:

The Methodology of Inclusion

An introduction to the specific steps taken to ensure meaningful participation from marginalized groups. We will examine how centering these voices acts as a vital form of transitional justice.

Advocacy in Action

A focused look at how civil society actors are actively engaging with emerging political administrations inside Burma, highlighting a particular case where a resistance-led governance structure has been engaged to adopt community-driven health and education policies.

Dismantling Oppressive Power Structures

A broader discussion on capitalizing on the rise of new political administrations to institute genuine, people-led democracy from the beginning, ensuring historical injustices are not replicated.

Challenges and Replicability

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An honest exploration of the hurdles involved in bottom-up agenda setting, and an analysis of whether this methodology can serve as a viable template for application in other regional contexts compared to traditional approaches.

Who Should Attend?

This session is designed to foster an action-oriented dialogue among diverse stakeholders:

Academics are invited to critically analyze this participatory methodology, evaluating its efficacy and potential for wider impact.

Students will discover innovative avenues to contribute to the democratization of spaces within public policy, economics, and politics.

Civil Society can connect with the ongoing project, offering perspectives to further refine the approach and build cross-sector alliances.

Political Actors will find compelling models to analyze and incorporate, ensuring emerging frameworks are grounded in true people-led politics.

We hope you will join us to explore how a transformative, inclusive vision can actively shape Burma's future.

Keyword: Federalism, People-centered economics, Transitional justice, Ethnic and social minorities, Inclusion