



MYANMAR

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Statement by

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of the Permanent Mission of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

New York

at the First Committee Thematic Debate on

Disarmament Machinery

21 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We are of the view that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) play a significant role in producing the legally binding international instruments and recommendations towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and all other type of conventional weapons.

Our expectation and aspiration on both institutions remain elusive since they have still been unable to produce concrete result in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Mr. Chairman,

The questions for international community here is;

“Are we in a mode of complacency with the progress achieved thus far” and “When will we reach to the strong political will of nations to overarching theme towards the global disarmament agenda?”

Our view is that we are now at a crossroads to improve our disarmament machinery into a respectable and achievable international medium to initiate discussion on our current and future issues.

In this context, we would like to reiterate that while maintaining and strengthening the nature, role and purposes of this machinery, it is necessary to pave the way for reaching fruitful outcomes early.

Mr. Chairman,

We are disappointed that the Conference on Disarmament is still unable to agree upon its Programme of Work. However, we appreciate the endeavors made by the successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to break the deadlock. No matter how hard their efforts were, the lack of political will on the part of some member states prevented it to reach a consensus. The impasse in the CD could not entail the concrete negotiations on critical issues like nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of an arms race in outer space and fissile materials cut-off treaty.

In this context, we welcome the decision to establish the Informal Working Group with a mandate to produce a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament on 16 August 2013.

In the same vein, we would like to reaffirm the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, and reiterate the need to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, the four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Mr. Chairman,

We would also like to reaffirm and support for the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) would be able to produce its recommendations in the field of "Achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" and "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons" after its three year cycle of consideration on the items in the 2014 session.

Mr. Chairman,

It is natural that when there is no progress in the CD and the DC, the initiatives to produce a concrete result goes to other way around to an open-ended working group , the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) , the First Committee and the General Assembly. In this sense, the initiative of GGE, together with the active involvement of UN member states, to nurture the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a remarkable milestone in the disarmament history. We also welcome the report submitted by the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

We should not overlook the role of the First Committee and the General Assembly in moving forward important decisions with majority rule. In this regards, we would like to pay tribute to the delegations who initiated different approaches to find a common ground on different issues.

Mr. Chairman,

There is always light at the end of the tunnel.

We firmly believe that international community would find ways and means together to overcome all the setbacks and deficiencies with common determination and devotion towards our common goals. We may have different views and approaches on various issues. The merits of a consensus-based approach and majority-rule- based approach are numerous and worth the effort. We should strike a balance between these two approaches and merge them into a better one for the benefit of mankind.

On our part, we will continue to work together with the international community to find fruitful solutions to strengthen and promote the role of United Nations disarmament machinery.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.