



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by**

**Mr. Ko Ko Shein**

**Minister Counsellor**

**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**

**Conventional Weapons**

**30 October 2013**

**Mr. Chairman,**

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

We also appreciate the oral presentations made by the President of the UN Conference on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Chairs of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Conventional Weapons pose serious threats and challenges with their devastating effect on humanity.

It is therefore pertinent to differentiate between the supply and the demand cycles of the Conventional Weapons.

The production, possession and trade of Conventional Weapons should be strictly maintained between the government entities to avoid their possession by non-state actors.

The licit trade between states should also be based on the principles of legitimate use and the right to self-defence of every state.

Excessive use or accumulation of surplus weapons will have damaging effects on our daily lives.

The arms trade between the developed and the developing countries is unbalanced. It is necessary to pay more attention to the plight of innocent civilian population rather than the protectionist arms traders.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We appreciate Ambassador Peter Woolcott for making every effort to adopt a robust Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Since its opening for signature, 114 States has signed the treaty while eight States has ratified it.

In our view, the ATT should complement the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the International Tracing Instrument.

While emphasizing the important role of ATT, we must not lose sight of the fact that every nation has the right to self-defense and protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It is also incumbent on every State to bear the primary responsibility to prevent illicit arms trade and transfer of arms in their own territories.

It is our sincere hope that a balanced, full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons by all States would be realized soon.

**Mr. Chairman,**

According to the report of the GGE, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms received 52 national reports in 2012.

We continue to believe that the confidence-building measures and the transparency among the States are the real essence of the UN Arms Register.

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have a double-edged impact. The ill effects of ICT would be staggering if we are unable to use it properly or prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

In this regard, we must spare no effort to find a right solution towards the proper management of ICT by the States, international media and other different entities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines are the main causes of maiming and killing innocent civilian population.

Indiscriminate and excessive use of cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines not only undermine the effective functioning of our daily lives but also hamper the development efforts of the government.

Assistance to the mine victims as well as to the demining process in the conflict zones are a very effective approach to directly address the humanitarian aspects.

In this regard, we commend the efforts made by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) together with other regional and international organizations in extending humanitarian assistance in the demining process and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants to their respective communities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.