



MYANMAR

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Statement
by
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Delegate
of
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the First Committee Thematic Debate on
Regional Disarmament and Security

(New York, 30 October 2013)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch, Office of Disarmament Affairs, and the Directors of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa for their presentations. We look forward to working with you and the other delegations to further the work of the First Committee.

Myanmar supports the revitalization of the Regional Centres and the important role they are playing in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control measures at the regional level, thereby, strengthening durable peace and sustainable development in the regions concerned.

The Regional Centers' activities are funded by extra-budgetary voluntary contributions by donors. The work at the Centers is demand driven and undertaken at the request of Member States.

The member states of the respective regions should fully utilize their Centre's activities and also find ways and means to seek adequate funding for their potential projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Even as we celebrate our collective achievements over the past year, much remains to be done. Longstanding and critical gaps in the existing regional disarmament and security framework must be bridged. Developing partnerships between regions and international organizations is also a key to moving ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

The Workshops, Seminars and other regional interactive dialogues organized by the Regional Centers play a vital role in disseminating and sharing of concepts, ideas and action plans conducted at the United Nations and other international disarmament forums.

We are well aware that different regions have different priorities and approaches.

The regional centre for Africa, for instance, supported States' initiatives in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, assisted States in the Arms Trade Treaty process and, in the implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty).

Mr. Chairman,

The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has organized presentations by experts at regional conferences on the Programme of Action of the SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty, and a peace and education art contest, among others.

To promote durable peace and sustainable development, Member States, the Office of Disarmament Affairs and the donors community should focus more on a community-based approach in conducting the business while maintain the current activities of the region.

The Disarmament Fellowship Programme organized by the Office of Disarmament Affairs is significantly benefitting the developing countries. In this regard, in the selection of candidates to the programme priority should be given to the Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We will continue to need voluntary budgetary contributions from member states of the United Nations and other interested organizations and individuals to meet the staffing requirements and the basic administrative cost of the Regional Centres and their endeavours. Only when the Member States and other donors provide adequate funding would the Regional Centres be able to sustain their activities in the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the world is changing and new security challenges emerging it is no longer an option, but an imperative, for countries to come together to address international disarmament and security issues. Where there is a will, there is a way. Let's try together to create a more secure world.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.