



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

of the Union of Myanmar

in the General Debate of the First Committee

of the 64th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

(New York, 7 October 2009)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the pleasure of extending the warmest congratulations of the Myanmar delegation on your unanimous election as the chairman of the First Committee of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly. I pledge you the fullest cooperation of my delegation on the advancement of the work of the committee under your able leadership. Our tribute also goes to the other members of the Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

2009 is the year of hope for global disarmament agenda. Developments such as statements by the leaders of nuclear weapon states for further arms reductions and on commitment to treaties as well as initiative to address global nuclear challenges are encouraging signs for disarmament agenda. Adoption of the programme of work on 29 May 2009, at the Conference on Disarmament, after a decade of stagnation is also heartening. But such causes for optimism are contradicted by lack of recommendations from Third Prep Com for 2010 Review Conference and by the inability of the CD to take a decision of procedural nature to assume substantive negotiations. These setbacks negated the optimism on the year 2009 and the credit otherwise due for the collective efforts by the international community in disarmament.

My delegation welcomes the unanimous adoption by the United Nations Security Council of its Resolution 1887 (2009) on 24 September 2009 with the overwhelming support of the international community.

The global atmosphere conducive to arms reduction, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in 2009 must be maintained in coming years and the promises must be followed by concrete actions.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Disarmament remains high on the agenda for Myanmar Delegation. Our desired goal is to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament negotiating a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time. However, my delegation would welcome the establishment of a working group with a mandate to exchange views and information on practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to reduce nuclear weapons as a step in the right direction.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the important undertaking on arms reductions and important initiative to address the nuclear agenda by some nuclear weapon States. It is hoped that such activities taken in line with the Article VI of the NPT and the decisions of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference will lead to further reductions involving all Nuclear-weapon States and to the total and eventual elimination of nuclear arsenals.

In the same vein, Myanmar welcomes the a five-point proposal launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last October with the conviction that nuclear disarmament is the only reliable way to prevent any further use of such weapons. This important contribution deserves our serious consideration. In this regard, I would like to express here that the Secretary-General made a statement at the United Nations Security Council on 24 September, 2009 as follows; “nuclear disarmament was the only sane path to a safer world.”

Mr. Chairman,

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament and to promote cooperation and ensure access to nuclear energy. Myanmar signed the NPT on December 2nd 1992, and is strongly committed to these three pillars of the NPT. A safeguards agreement with IAEA as required by NPT is in effect for Myanmar. Myanmar also

signed the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty-SEANWFZ on December 15, 2005 which has entered into force since March 27, 1997.

Myanmar is of the view that successful conclusion of 2010 Review Conference of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a must and the implementation of 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament in accordance with the measures outlined in 2000 Review Conference is utmost necessity in this regard. Myanmar will cooperate fully with the President-designate Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan of Philippines for the successful conclusion of the Review Conference.

It is in conformity with its strong commitment to the three pillars of the NPT that Myanmar has been tabling a draft resolution on Nuclear Disarmament in the First Committee with the support of the majority of UN member states since 1995. We would like to express our thanks to all the Co-sponsors and those who have voted in favour of the draft resolution since it was first introduced. With her unwavering conviction towards the nuclear weapons free world, Myanmar will again table a draft resolution on Nuclear disarmament this year. The draft resolution will focus on total elimination of nuclear weapons, reflect interim measures and steps for nuclear-weapon States, and outline various multilateral approaches to nuclear disarmament. I hope to receive the continued support this year again.

Mr. Chairman,

The Programme of Work we have collectively adopted at the CD on May 29 this year will negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material. The negotiations in the Working Group should be based on, but not limited to, the document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995. My delegation believes that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. Therefore we would like to see a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable fissile material banning treaty that has both non-proliferation and disarmament objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations General Assembly resolution on "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" enjoys the overwhelming support of the members including Myanmar. This broad support reflects the affirmation that space is the common heritage of mankind and should be exploited for peaceful uses only. As existing legal instruments fail to unequivocally prevent testing, deployment and use of all kinds of weapons in outer space, Myanmar believes that there is a need for a comprehensive treaty on Outer Space prohibiting testing, deployment and use of weapons. Pending such a comprehensive treaty, the prohibition of the threat or use of force against outer space objects would constitute an effective measure towards this goal. In this connection, my delegation views the document CD/1839 containing a draft treaty on outer space as a good basis for our work in the CD for such an instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

The only complete and effective security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons lie in the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament and complete elimination of these weapons. Pending the achievement of total elimination of nuclear weapons, the non-nuclear-weapon States that renounced voluntarily their nuclear option have the legitimate right to receive both negative and positive security assurances from nuclear weapon states. We consider that unilateral declarations on security assurances have not fulfilled the requirements of non-nuclear-weapon States. Many States are not covered by the security assurances provided by the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones or military alliances. Lack of progress on NSA after the existence of the NPT over decades may negatively affect the integrity of NPT in the eyes of those NNWS to NPT. An internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States is long overdue and a prerequisite for a nuclear-free world.

Mr. Chairman,

This brings me to the work of the Conference on Disarmament this year. By its decision of 29 May 2009 on the Programme of Work, the Conference was able to reclaim its rightful role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiation forum. This breakthrough, after years of stagnation, is yet to be completed by a further decision by the Conference on the modalities to implement it. Political will by member states of the Conference to pursue non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in good faith needs to be demonstrated again. My delegation believes that security concern can be best addressed only through negotiations. Disengagement is the enemy of progress. It is necessary that the Conference on Disarmament will be able to build upon what we have achieved together this year and have a smooth start of its work in 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, I would like to express my sincere hope that the favorable political climate for arms control, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament will also prevail in the First Committee and its work, under your able leadership, will meet with success by our collective desire and efforts to achieve lasting peace and security for all.

Thank you.

