



M Y A N M A R

Please check against delivery

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 65th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

(New York, 8 October 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to add my voice to previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election as the Chairman of the First Committee of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that your vast experiences and strong commitment to the work of the First Committee will bring our deliberations to a successful conclusion. My delegation pledges our full cooperation in discharging your important mission. Our appreciation also goes to other members of the Bureau.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Despite stagnation and lost opportunity to our disarmament agenda move forward, the global atmosphere conducive to arms reduction, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament still continue to exist in 2010.

My delegation welcomes the signing of the New START Treaty by the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation. It gave us hope and expectation for the elimination of Nuclear Weapons and further reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The early entry into force and full implementation of the New START Treaty is a necessity and we hope that both parties will take necessary measures to implement their commitment into action in the near future.

Strengthening nuclear security and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism is an important step for making the World a safer place. In this context, my delegation takes note of the commitments made at the Nuclear Security Summit held in April this year.

My delegation appreciates the difficult compromises negotiated by all at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May 2010. My delegation welcomes the outcome document as a basis for future steps to make progress on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The unanimously adopted Action Plan is an advancement of the NPT and its objectives. Myanmar will work together with other States Parties for its full implementation. At the same time, we would urge those remaining outside of the treaty to join NPT as soon as possible and as a priority.

The High-level Meeting on "Revitalization the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations" gave us an opportunity to review the work of the Conference on Disarmament with the participation of the ministerial and above level of the universal membership of the United Nations. We hope that the Programme of Work of the Conference on Disarmament in 2011 be adopted and its substantive work begins accordingly.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament has been and remains high on the disarmament agenda for Myanmar. In this connection, we will submit our traditional resolution on "Nuclear disarmament" once again in the First Committee this year. The resolution reiterates its call upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of these weapons within a specified framework of time. We hope that the resolution will enjoy the overwhelming support of international community.

The Action Plan of NPT Review Conference this year consists of commitments and actions on nuclear disarmament for nuclear weapon states. Bringing and pursuing policies to be compatible with the NPT, and a nuclear weapon free world would require a brave departure from old nuclear doctrines or new ones with reservations or exclusions.

In pursuant of these steps by nuclear weapon states, multilateral efforts can add momentum to the process. In this regard, I would like to reiterate our call to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament negotiating a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As an initial step, the Conference should, at the beginning of its 2011 session, establish a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament.

My delegation urges all Nuclear Weapon States to fully and immediately comply with 22-point Action Plan on Nuclear Disarmament outlined in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurance from nuclear-weapon States would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Myanmar is of the view that it is the legitimate right of non-nuclear weapon States that have voluntarily renounced their nuclear option. The need to guarantee this right to receive both negative and positive security assurances is of paramount importance for non-nuclear weapon States. In the long run, delay in developing an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States will not serve the interest of NPT regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar believes that a Comprehensive Treaty on Outer Space Prohibiting Testing, Deployment and Use of All kinds of Weapons is essential to preserve the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The resolution 64/28 on Prevention of an arms race in outer space enjoys overwhelming support of the UN membership including Myanmar. The resolution, among others, recognized that negotiation for the conclusion of an international arrangement of agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remains a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation is convinced that the document CD/1839 containing a draft treaty on outer space as a good basis for our efforts leading to such a goal.

A treaty to ban the production of fissile material is a must and will contribute towards a world free of nuclear weapons. In our view, this process is being long overdue. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are inextricably linked goals. We should not expect to reach one of them while undermining the other. With this rationale, Myanmar considers that a future treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices should cover both existing stockpiles and future production. Myanmar will join consensus in adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and the four core issues in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference on Disarmament. The Rules of Procedure including the consensus rule of the Conference has served the members well. Consensus at the beginning of a process facilitates greater chances for a successful negotiation and wider acceptance of its final outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Myanmar's support for the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum recognized and accorded at the SSOD I. Additionally, we also believe that the unique composition of its membership, nuclear or non-nuclear, presents the Conference on Disarmament a better opportunity in dealing with security concerns of all.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for providing us with an opportunity to exchange views on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Many have expressed their support for the important role of the Conference. If there is a need to review the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, it should be done by a special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I sincerely hope that our work in the First Committee will bring along with desired results and constitute a step closer in making the world a safer place to live in.

Thank you.

#####