



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by**

**His Excellency U Maung Wai**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative**

**of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**at the General Debate of the First Committee**

**16 October 2013**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to commend your able leadership and the outstanding manner steering the work of the First Committee. My tribute also goes to Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and her office for their contribution towards the global disarmament agenda. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for winning the Nobel Peace Prize a few days ago.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered, ~~under this agenda item~~, by Indonesia on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by my own country on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nuclear weapons pose a grave threat to humankind. Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority on my country's disarmament agenda. We would like to reiterate that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues. We firmly believe that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the successful convening recently of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament and the designation of September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. We were gratified at the high-level representation at the meeting and the expression of their strong support for firm and sustained action toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. An unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament by the Nuclear-Weapon States should be honored and implemented with concrete actions. In the same vein, we wish to reiterate our call for the full implementation of the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament as set out in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

We are of the view that, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, negotiations for an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-Nuclear-Weapons States should be a pre-requisite.

The Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned constitute an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensuring international peace and security. The internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world contribute greatly towards the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons. In this context, we encourage the Member States to continue establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones where they do not exist, including the establishment of a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. We continue to believe that an early convening of the Middle East Conference on the establishment of such a zone could lead to a better environment to enhance the peace and security of the region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The two processes of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Conclusion of a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices is a logical step towards the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Myanmar welcomes the recent ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq.

We believe that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. We are of the view that the exploration and use of outer space and other celestial bodies should be for peaceful purposes only. The growing use of outer space entails the need for two legally binding instruments. The first instrument should guarantee non-nuclear-weapons states assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapons states while the second one should guarantee the prevention of placing any kind of weapons in outer space.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We would like to reiterate that the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) play a vital role in combating weapons of mass destruction.

We must always be vigilant against the dangers posed by the likely acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and the need for international cooperation in combating it. In this context, we welcome the Security Council Resolutions 1540 and 2118 as well as the Executive Council decision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar has now ushered in a new era. Since the formation of the constitutional government 30 months ago, we have successfully undertaken many key reforms within a short period of time. We are confident that, with the increasing support and cooperation from the international community, we will achieve our goals of democratic transformation, job creation, income generation and poverty alleviation sooner.

While focusing its attention on realising these goals, Myanmar is simultaneously reviewing its domestic legislations that are not in line with international norms and practices. Progressive steps are being taken to further enhance our status in connection with a number of disarmament-related conventions such as CTBT, BWC, and CWC.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar signed the Additional Protocol for the IAEA Safeguards Agreement on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on 17 September 2013. This is a yet another significant development and a testimony to our commitment towards nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Currently we are undergoing a process for implementing the protocol. The process includes, among others, drafting a domestic law, setting up a national authority for implementation of the protocol

and establishing a State System of Accounting and Control. Upon completion of this process, we will inform the IAEA for the entry into force of the Additional Protocol for Myanmar.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Myanmar continues to attach great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. While expressing our disappointment with the continued stalemate in the CD, we welcome the establishment of the Informal Working Group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation.

In our view, CD is not alone for lacking progress. In fact, the United Nations disarmament machinery as a whole has been stagnant. Myanmar believes that the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD IV) has the authority and legitimacy to comprehensively review the functioning of the entire disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament. Towards this end, Myanmar is looking forward to an early convening of SSOD IV.

We also welcome the work of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to develop proposals to move the multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations forward for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. In order to have concrete and deliverable outcomes, all stakeholders should be involved in the process of the OEWG.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In line with its priority and commitment to nuclear disarmament, Myanmar, together with other UN Member States as co-sponsors, has been annually submitting to the First Committee a draft resolution on Nuclear Disarmament. We will once again table it at the current session. Through this resolution, we have been calling upon Nuclear-Weapon States to cease immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons with a view to taking measures leading to their total elimination within a specified framework of time.

We sincerely hope that all Member States will support our draft resolution.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.