



MYANMAR

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Statement

By

**His Excellency Mr. Htin Lynn,
Permanent Representative of
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

at the Plenary Meeting
of
the Conference on Disarmament

(Geneva, 17 February 2017)

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference at this important juncture. I particularly commend you and your delegation for your dedication and concerted efforts to bring the CD back to life and where it deserves in the international security environment.

I also congratulate distinguished colleagues who played a role and contributed to bring the Conference back to its substantive negotiation mandate, as outlined by distinguished colleague from Mexico.

Mr. President,

We have created this Conference, through SSOD-I in 1978, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

The Conference's long unfruitful period is a source of frustration for all of us. We asked ourselves why. Is it the international strategic complexity or security climate, or is it the Conference's latent importance itself or combination of all of them.

When it comes to assessing the relevance of the CD, it is always useful to recall its track record of producing a number of important international security instruments including NPT, BWC, CWC and CTBT. Such past products, although in an increasingly distant memory, underline the CD's significance as well as its potential.

I believe the Conference remains important to many of us and many of those waiting for their membership. The presence of current members in this Chamber combined with growing hope for membership represents half of the UN membership. It is a living testimony to the importance and relevancy of the Conference.

Its unique composition of the membership with continued expansion is already conducive to a serious negotiation. In our view, success of important negotiation outside the CD on issues such as nuclear disarmament, fissile material, prevention of an arms race in outer space and security assurances or any other issue important for us, in reality, will be limited.

While there is room for improvement on the Rules of Procedure to meet the present circumstances and to make progress in our work, they are still

sufficiently stringent and at the same time flexible enough to accommodate our procedural or substantive concerns. We used to debate in the past on the essence of consensus and so-called linkages but the Rules of Procedure still survive and proven to be a sound foundation of our *modus operandis* in the past, present and future.

Mr. President, Excellences and Colleagues,

We need to do a bit of soul-searching exercise. Why we are devoting ourselves to the Conference while we all have equally important issues to be addressed in this operational hub of the United Nations? Is our tax payers' money well spent? How can we justify ourselves for not making progress in the Conference?

The answer lies with us.

The answer, in part, to me is that we must make good use of the existence of the Conference, and we must do it now.

The Conference needs our collective wisdom and renewed commitment.

Mr. President,

This brings me to the issue at hand.

My delegation considers your draft decision as contained in CD/WP.599/Rev.1 as orally revised as a first step in the right direction to revive the CD.

I believe that this step constitutes a useful procedural trigger which will allow us to move on with our work, hopefully, in substantive nature at a later stage.

At the same time, we need to differentiate and determine between what is desirable and what is achievable.

In this belief, my delegation is ready to join the adoption of the draft decision as contained in CD/WP.599/Rev.1 as orally revised.

Let us seize this important moment of making progress together.

Thank you.