



MYANMAR

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Statement by

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Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

at the High-level Segment of the

2015 Session of the Conference on Disarmament

(Geneva, 3 March 2015)

**Mr. President,
Acting Secretary General of the Conference,
Excellencies,**

It is a great honour for me to participate in this High-level Segment and address the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of office as President of the CD. I am confident that, under your able leadership, the CD will produce fruitful outcomes from its work, paving the way forward to our shared goals. You can rest assured of Myanmar's strong support and cooperation for the success of your endeavours.

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to reiterate my country's long standing commitment and support to the CD. Myanmar, as one of the original members of the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee, continues to attach great importance to the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament created by the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD I).

The central role played by the CD in producing several important multilateral disarmament treaties in the past was remarkable. However, we share the disappointment and frustration of many in this chamber over the state of continued stagnation in the CD in the past 18 years, failing to effectively respond to the calls of the international community to fulfill its mandate and resume substantive work. But, we continue to believe that the CD's existence and its unique composition of membership are still an important asset in our quest for peace and security through disarmament.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. President,

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for Myanmar in the pursuit of international arms control and disarmament agenda. Nuclear weapons impinge on the security of all nations. The continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use obviously constitutes a grave danger to the very existence of humankind and the survival of civilization. Catastrophic consequences in a scenario of accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons are terrifying. In our view, the only absolute guarantee to prevent this scenario is the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we encourage all parties to continue focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in relevant fora.

NPT Review Conference

Mr. President,

Before we can reach the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, Myanmar, as a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), reasonably believes that necessary assurances be given to the Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. 2015 is an important year for the NPT regime since the Review Conference will take place in New York in April and May. We should join hands to work together for the success of the Conference. At this juncture, I would like to urge all Nuclear-Weapon States, particularly those with the largest nuclear arsenals, to fully and immediately comply with the 22-point Action Plan on nuclear disarmament, which is contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Since Myanmar will be taking over the CD presidency in June this year, right after the NPT Review Conference, we will be following its proceedings closely.

Other Core issues of the CD

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to Myanmar's position with regard to other important issues on the disarmament agenda, such as a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that addresses past, present and future productions, the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), and negative security assurances (NSAs) in the form of an international legally-binding instrument. We would welcome negotiations or pre-negotiations on these issues, within the framework of the CD. In this regard, we support the initiatives taken by the P6 last year, organizing the informal meetings on the agenda items of the CD. In our view, they contributed to our better understanding on the positions of CD Member States on various issues including the four core issues.

Expansion of CD

Mr. President,

With regard to the expansion of membership in the CD, Myanmar welcomes the call for the appointment of a special coordinator on this matter to examine modalities of review, without any prejudice to the outcome. We saw merit in the efforts made this year by the previous President of the CD towards establishing a working group to review the methods of work of the CD. However, this initiative did not enjoy the consensus. In our view, the political will of Member States is equally important for moving the CD forward.

Participation of Civil Society

Mr. President,

In keeping with the nature of the CD as a negotiating forum, we support the strengthening of the CD's interaction with the Civil Society in the field of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Despite the lack of consensus last month on the proposal for the participation of Civil Society at the CD, we should continue to further explore possibilities, such as setting criteria or modalities, for their participation at the CD.

Myanmar's Commitment to Nonproliferation and Disarmament

Mr. President,

I would like to touch briefly on my country's commitment to disarmament. The successive governments of Myanmar have actively participated in and contributed to the work of the international community on the non-proliferation and disarmament, including nuclear disarmament and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

Since the new government took office in 2011, Myanmar has been undergoing political, economic and social reforms. We have also been taking progressive steps to further enhance our status in connection with a number of disarmament-related conventions.

Additional Protocol

Myanmar has been a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) since December 1992. We signed the Safeguards Agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol pursuant to the NPT with the IAEA in April 1995. In September 2013, we signed the protocol additional to the agreement between Myanmar and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In accordance with Article 17 (Entry into force) of the Additional Protocol, we are now in the process of completing domestic procedures, including the drafting of domestic laws. In this connection, a number of national workshops have been conducted.

BWC

On 1 December 2014, Myanmar deposited the Instrument of Ratification on the BWC with the respective depositaries, namely, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, prior to the commencement of the 2014 Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva.

Now that we have become a State Party to the BWC, we will continue our efforts to set up appropriate legal frameworks, regulations and practices in line with the provisions of the Convention. We are looking forward to working together with our fellow Member States to improve the bio-safety and security system in Myanmar.

CWC

Myanmar signed the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on 14 January 1993. In January this year, Union Parliament of Myanmar unanimously approved of the proposal to ratify the CWC. Arrangements are now under way to deposit the instrument of ratification with the UN Secretary-General, as the depositary of the Convention.

CTBT

Among the major international disarmament instruments, we are equally paying attention to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We signed the CTBT in 1996. We have been cooperating with the CTBTO Technical Secretariat for the use of IMS (International Monitoring System) data for the national early warning system for Tsunami and natural disasters.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all Member States of the CD to show their utmost flexibility and the political will in the deliberations of the CD in order to move the CD forward. Myanmar, as one of the P6 this year, will be working closely and collectively with all Member States, particularly with our fellow P6. The Myanmar delegation is prepared to listen to all Member States of the CD and incorporate their constructive inputs in the work of our presidency.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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