



# MYANMAR

Check against delivery

**Statement**

**By**

**His Excellency Mr. Kyaw Tin,  
Union Minister for International Cooperation of  
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**at the High-Level Segment of  
the 2018 Session of the Conference on Disarmament**

**(Geneva, 26 February 2018)**

**Mme. President,  
Secretary General António Guterres,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you Madam President, Ambassador Her Excellency Ms. Veronika Bard, Permanent Representative of Sweden, on your assumption of Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament at this critical juncture.

**Mme. President,**

2. The world today is faced with regional instabilities, intrastate conflicts with civilian sufferings and discord in interstate relations.

3. Although the year 2017 was marked with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the goal of nuclear-weapon-free-world is becoming more and more challenging. Strengthening reliance on nuclear deterrence and modernizing arsenals by nuclear weapons states and building capabilities by nuclear-armed states are in fact seriously undermining arms control and non-proliferation regimes. Perhaps, a second nuclear age, with more actors and less stability is in the making.

4. Growing distrust among the States particularly between major powers is seriously affecting our collective security roadmap. We need to reverse this trend with matching confidence-building measures and political will before it has become parallel to the East-West enmity and competition level.

5. In our view, a proactive multilateral approach is needed more than ever to address discord, instability and disarmament and non-proliferation challenges.

6. One of the most serious security challenges for the international community is maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. It has been a flashpoint with potential dangers involving nuclear weapons and missile capabilities. It is important for member states to comply with the provisions of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. Myanmar, as a responsible member of the UN, is making every effort to comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions. Recent developments such as high-level talks, Olympic diplomacy and re-opening of hotlines are signs of hope for better. Such efforts on engagement and dialogue should be further pursued and encouraged.

7. While use of chemical weapons is not yet diminished, acts of violent extremism continue to pose a threat to our populations and affect us on a daily basis. At the same time, terrorism is reaching to new places and triggering violence and instability.

8. We should also be proactive to address new security challenges. Cyber security threats, incidents, vulnerabilities and how we could be able to address them collectively and effectively were debated heatedly in recently held Munich Security Conference. In many instances, disinformation, fake photos and news and other forms of manipulation are exacerbating a difficult situation, thereby misleading the international community and taking us away from making right decisions for solutions. Violation of cyber security, misuse of cyber technology by individuals, criminal and terrorist organisations or even states have direct bearings not only on our security but also on our day to day activities. Policy makers, experts and giant media empires must come together, sooner rather than later, to cope with this challenge. The Conference on Disarmament should keep its door open to this issue.

**Mme. President,**

9. Allow me to turn to Myanmar's sustained non-proliferation efforts.
  
10. While we pursue peace, development, national reconciliation and democratization process, we were able to make progress also on non-proliferation as part of our reform process.
  
11. The signature of an Additional Protocol with International Atomic Energy Agency-IAEA, the ratification of Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty took place in four-year timespan between 2013 and 2016.
  
12. In preparing our way forward, Myanmar was able to hold national capacity-building, induction and outreach workshops on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material, on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and small arms and light weapons (SALW).
  
13. These sustained efforts, despite capacity constraint, were made possible in close collaboration and support by international partners including Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, European Union, United States and Australia, and relevant treaty bodies.
  
14. Our efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation are continuing.

**Mme. President,**

15. Myanmar continue to attach great importance, and believe in the potentials of the Conference on Disarmament established in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community following the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD I) in 1978.

16. As a responsible member, Myanmar is always ready to contribute to bringing the Conference back to life and to deliver its mandate. Last year, I have instructed and given my support to our delegation to the CD to make its best efforts as the Chair of Way Ahead Working Group. It is regrettable that useful and substantive discussions of the Working Group did not lead to consensus recommendations.

17. Myanmar's highest priority on the disarmament agenda continues to be nuclear disarmament. Therefore, Myanmar calls for the Conference to substantively deal with nuclear disarmament in its Programme of Work this year.

18. Pending enter into force of the CTBT and moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, a treaty banning fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices is next logical step of the 13 Practical Steps on Non-proliferation and Disarmament agreed to at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

19. As have been identified as core issues, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space deserve our serious consideration in the work of the CD.

20. New challenges such as Lethal Autonomous Systems, Cybersecurity Threats, as I have mentioned earlier on, and Chemical and Biological Terrorism should also find their way into our work as part of reframing and modernizing long-standing disarmament and non-proliferation priorities.

21. Against this backdrop, we welcome the decision adopted under the Sri Lanka Presidency, on 16 February 2018, establishing five subsidiary bodies on all agenda items to build understanding on the areas of commonalities including technical discussions, and to consider effective measures for negotiations. I am confident that under your able leadership, our efforts will be more crystalized in the days to come.

22. With greater political will, flexibility and accommodation by all member states of the Conference, we would be able to break the impasse and translate our security concerns into a programme of work. I wish all of you and the Conference best of luck and success in this important mission.

**Mme. President,**

23. Looking ahead, we consider the Second Preparatory Committee session of the 2020 NPT Review Conference in April is a welcome opportunity to gauge and enhance the balanced implementation of three pillars of the Treaty. We must make most out of it.

24. It is also timely to convene a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in 2018 in order to enhance progress toward the achievement of a nuclear weapons convention - a global treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

**Mme. President,**

25. The nexus between security and development is obvious. The argument between security and development as two different sets of activities is subsiding. Peaceful and prosperous societies for our future generations means better security environment for them. To make it happen, ever-growing excessive military expenditures should be channelled to achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

***Our wisdom should prevail over our might.***

26. I thank you Madam President.

\*\*\*\*\*