



MYANMAR

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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 2019 Session of the Conference on Disarmament

(Geneva, 27 February 2019)

Mr. President,

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I thank you for the opportunity to address the High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament.
- At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, Ambassador Aidan Liddle, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Conference on Disarmament, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament at this important juncture.

Mr. President,

- This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Conference on Disarmament. Anniversary offers us the opportunity to review its progress of the work of the CD. The CD encapsulates the multilateral efforts on arms control and disarmament.

- The CD had produced many important legal instruments on disarmament and contributed its share to world peace and security during the past 40 years.
- Since the establishment of Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in the early 1960s, Myanmar's participation and dedication to multilateral disarmament negotiations date back to one of the predecessors of the CD.
- Regardless of the prolonged stagnation in the Conference, Myanmar's view on CD remains unchanged. Myanmar continues to commit itself to the CD as the single multilateral negotiation forum on disarmament created by the First Special Session of the UNGA devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I).

Mr. President,

- The prevailing circumstances of the international peace and security are undergoing the most profound changes with growing uncertainties and instability since the end of the Cold War.
- As the world peace and security is seriously challenged by various threats, maintaining healthy relations among major countries is of utmost importance to the settlement of global strategic problems.
- The announcement of suspension from the INF Treaty both state parties has raised deep concerns for the international community.
- We would like to encourage all of us to pursue the simple policy of compromise at any negotiation table. We should not focus solely on what we want but what we can give to achieve the common goals. With this in mind, we need to further develop principle of win-win cooperation. This principle should be sincerely observed by the Member States of the CD with strong political will.

Mr. President,

- The nuclear-weapon states should be committed to sharing responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

- We are of the view that the flexibility of nuclear weapons states and the constructive approaches taken by all other states can maintain and contribute to the global peace and security.
- Despite growing clarion call for nuclear disarmament by the international community, achieving a world without nuclear weapons remains a distant goal. Bold and swift actions particularly by the nuclear weapon states are essential to achieve that goal.
- Myanmar firmly believes that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The NPT Review Conference which will take place next year will provide us yet another opportunity to discuss the issue. We are encouraged to learn that preparatory committee shows a willingness to achieve a meaningful outcome.
- We urge all state parties to seize this opportunity to advance the three major objectives of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy in a comprehensive and balanced manner so that the Review Conference could produce substantive outcomes.
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty plays a crucial role in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We would urge Annex2 States of the CTBT which have yet to ratify it to demonstrate renewed political commitments to achieve the earliest entry into force of this important treaty.
- A peaceful approach is the right solution to the nuclear issue. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes the ongoing DPRK - the United States Summit held today in Hanoi. We hope that the summit would be meaningful and lead to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula which will contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond.
- We believe that the UN Secretary General's disarmament agenda lays out a clear and strategic roadmap for addressing current challenges that could help the Member States to set the world on a path towards sustainable peace and security for all.

- In this context, Myanmar would like to call on all member states to demonstrate good-will and cooperative spirit in the disarmament and arms control process.

Mr. President,

- Allow me to turn to Myanmar's continued efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Despite our domestic priorities focusing on peace, national reconciliation, development and democratization process, we never lose sight of the wider common goal of world peace and security and our disarmament agenda.
- Signing the Treaty on the prohibition nuclear weapons (TPNW) was recent installments in our broad range of disarmament goals. Myanmar consistently attaches paramount importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

- The Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals.
- Myanmar has long advocated that the CD's immediate focus should be on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention.
- A treaty banning fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices is a logical step towards nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. We would welcome to start negotiations in the CD on the Fissile Material Treaty (FMT) including both existing stockpiles and future production.
- Pending the achievement of our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, a way had to be found to ensure that nuclear weapons States provide negative security assurances to non-nuclear States. We stand ready to join consensus in the hope that the work of CD would lead to the commencement of negotiations on a legally binding effective instrument.

- The peaceful uses of outer space is also in the interest of all nations, and an arms race there must be prevented and avoided. In this context we would like to welcome the initiatives leading to negotiate a legally binding instrument on it.
- Regarding the new type of weapons, let me reiterate my statement made in this Chamber last year. Cyber security is an issue that increasingly affects all countries and should be given a voice in multilateral negotiation forum.

Mr. President,

- Against this backdrop, we appreciate the efforts made by the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies during 2018 session. It would be appropriate and constructive to build on and continue to focus on these positive elements in this 2019 session. We acknowledge and welcome the efforts made by the outgoing and current Presidencies.
- We encourage all CD member states to demonstrate necessary political will to ensure that the CD fulfills its negotiating mandate.

Mr. President,

- In our view, the lack of political will coupled with the differences in security interests of the countries are mainly responsible for the current deadlock in the CD. In addition, any politicization in the work of the CD should be avoided.
- We encourage all member states to work with its spirit of cooperation and accommodation in order to achieve the successful conclusion of this session and to refrain from polarizing or politicizing the work of the Conference for the sake of the people the world over.

Mr. President,

- In concluding, I would like to call on all member states to work together and to demonstrate constructive spirit and flexibility to enable the CD to move forward to making it a success story in 2019 session.
- I strongly believe that together we can overcome these challenges facing us today.
- I thank you Mr. President.
