



MYANMAR

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. U MAUNG WAI,

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MYANMAR TO

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF

THE 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation joins the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of office as Chair of the Committee. We can assure you of our strong support and cooperation.
2. Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Chair,

3. Myanmar welcomes the establishment and commemoration of September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Even though it cannot be an instant game changer, it undoubtedly serves as a gentle nudge to incrementally build up public awareness and support on a global scale to achieve the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.
4. My delegation welcomes the Declaration of the member States of OPANAL on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, inviting the international community to commemorate this International Day "...as part of the global efforts towards achieving the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons...".

Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Chair,

5. Myanmar had the honour of attending the three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. The strong showing-up at these conferences reflect that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are a truly legitimate global concern.

Humanitarian Joint Statement

Mr. Chair,

6. The Humanitarian Pledge initiative is incrementally gaining prominence and momentum these days. So far as my delegation can recall, it first began with a joint statement, in this committee, on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The joint statement came into being, with the initiative of Austria and several other countries. It spread like wildfire. The number of supporters grew year after year.
7. Then, at the 2015 NPT Review Conference here in New York, the joint statement came up again, participated by 160 countries and other entities.

Humanitarian Pledge

Mr. Chair,

8. Credit is due to Austria for taking the Humanitarian Pledge initiative. First emerged as the Austrian Pledge, it has now officially become the Humanitarian Pledge, with 119 states on board. My delegation is closely studying the Pledge, with a view to eventually joining it.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Chair,

9. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, we would like to reiterate the call for all nuclear-weapon-states, particularly those with the largest nuclear arsenals, to take, fully and immediately, the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament as contained in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference as well as the 22-points Action Plan on Nuclear Disarmament as contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chair,

10. Nuclear weapons have the greatest destructive capacity of all weapons. As it was affirmed at the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted

to Disarmament (SSOD-1), nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization. For this reason, the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is accorded the highest priority in the pursuit of my country's international arms control and disarmament objectives.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

11. We regret the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to adopt an outcome document. Rather than taking this as a hopeless situation, my delegation believes that we need to focus on other follow-on actions from the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference that still requires full and effective implementation, including the 22-points action plan on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

12. My delegation strongly believes that the internationally-recognized treaties on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Continued efforts need to be made to establish such zones where they do not still exist, including in the Middle East.
13. While we welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, my delegation is of the view that they should not be a substitute mechanism for the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Negative Security Assurances (NSAs)

Mr. Chair,

14. Pending the achievement of the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons, it is necessary that Nuclear-Weapons-States (NWS) credibly provide assurances to all Non-Nuclear-Weapon-States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this context, the securing of an agreement on a universal, unconditional, irrevocable and legally-binding instrument on NSAs will be very important.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

Mr. Chair,

15. My delegation continues to retain its trust and confidence in the relevancy and validity of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. During this year, Myanmar had the honour and privilege of taking up the CD Presidency from 8 June to 5 July. The lesson we learned during our CD Presidency is that the stagnation there is due mainly to the lack of political will on the part of some CD member states. Therefore, my delegation would like to urge the concerned member states to demonstrate the necessary political will in the deliberations at the Conference on Disarmament.

Conclusion of JCPOA

Mr. Chair,

16. Like many others, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 in Vienna on 14 July 2015. We wish all parties great success in the implementation of the JCPOA.

Progress in the Field of Disarmament

Mr. Chair,

17. During the tenure of the present government, Myanmar has raised its profile by taking progressive steps in the field of disarmament. It all started first with the signature of the IAEA Additional Protocol in 2013. This was followed successively by the ratifications of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 2014 and the Chemical Weapons Convention this year. Needless to say, these progressive actions clearly demonstrate our strong commitment and dedication to the cause of disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

18. Myanmar is a state party to the Four Geneva Conventions and we follow the basic principles of the Law of Armed Conflict. Our Armed Forces exercises restraint in its military operations. Cluster Munitions were never used in

these operations. With a nationwide ceasefire agreement signed on 15 October 2015, there will be greater prevalence of peace in the country. My country's ratification of the CCM would possibly be considered taking into consideration the political, economic and social circumstances in the aftermath of a nation-wide peace agreement.

19. I thank you, Mr. Chair.
