Statement

by

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Ambassador/Permanent Representative

of the Union of Myanmar

at the First Committee

to introduce the draft resolution on

“Nuclear Disarmament”

(New York, 22 October 2009)
Introduction of the draft resolution entitled “Nuclear disarmament” in the First Committee of the 64th UNGA

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed an honour for me to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/64/L.48 entitled “Nuclear disarmament” on behalf of its cosponsors, namely:


Mr. Chairman,

The only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Security for all can be better achieved by doing away with these weapons, not the other way around. It is in this belief that the cosponsors table the resolution on “Nuclear disarmament” again this year.

The resolution takes note of the positive signals by the United States and the Russian Federation on their negotiations on the replacement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which is due to expire by the end of 2009.

The resolution also takes note of the recent positive statements by Nuclear Weapon States of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, while reaffirming the need for urgent concrete actions by Nuclear Weapon States to achieve this goal, within a specified framework of time, and urging them to take further measures for progress on nuclear disarmament.

The important development that took place in the Conference on Disarmament this year is duly reflected in the draft resolution. The adoption of the Programme of Work for the 2009 session on May 29 is a welcome development on disarmament agenda.

The resolution urges, inter alia, the Conference on Disarmament to commence as early as possible its substantive work during its 2010 session, on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work, that take into consideration all the real and existing priorities in the field of disarmament and arms control.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution also recalls past efforts and recommendations for non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in order to convey the message that nuclear
disarmament has been the highest agenda of the international community for a number of decades.

The draft resolution accordingly focuses on a range of practical ways and means to achieve the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by different players in different forums.

It also outlines the interim steps to be taken among the nuclear weapon states to de-alert and deactivate nuclear weapons to enhance preventive and confidence-building measures. We believe that these measures are important and necessary. More importantly they are a prerequisite for paving the way to total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

This resolution again calls on nuclear-weapon States to assure non-nuclear-weapon States of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons in a legally binding instrument. Many States do not enjoy such guarantees either in a form of nuclear weapon free zone or a military alliance. The legitimate right of states that have decided to forgo the nuclear option is yet to be recognized, honoured and reciprocated seriously by nuclear-weapon states.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution builds upon the resolutions of previous year which contain measures to be taken by various players in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

On this note, Mr. Chairman, we would like to invite all States to demonstrate their commitment to a nuclear-weapon free world by supporting the draft resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.