STATEMENT

BY

H.E. U MAUNG WAI

AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, GENEVA

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

(NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2012)
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Nuclear Disarmament and NPT

Mr. Chairman,

Under the agenda of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for Myanmar due to the obvious and undisputable reasons. Nuclear weapons impinge on the security of all nations.

We share the view on the need to address humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and inconsistency of their use with fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. We must not lose sight of the fact that so long as nuclear weapons continue to exist on earth, we run the risk of putting ourselves on the verge of extinction. Therefore, we firmly believe that the only absolute guarantee against a nuclear catastrophe is their complete and total elimination.

Against this backdrop, it is incumbent upon all of us to faithfully pursue and implement the commitments and responsibilities stipulated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the consensus agreements reached at 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Myanmar would like to reiterate our call on all nuclear-weapon states, particularly those with the largest nuclear arsenals, to finally and immediately comply with the thirteen practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference as well as the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament agreed in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

In this context, we view the first session of the Preparatory Committee as a step necessary for laying the groundwork for the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Bilateral efforts on Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

While we recognize the bilateral efforts in reducing the nuclear arsenals, we need to be mindful at the same time that these efforts could be undermined by the qualitative improvement of the nuclear weapons.

NSA

Mr. Chairman,

Catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons know no boundary. Pending the achievement of their total elimination, non-nuclear-weapon States are entitled to an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against them. This urgent and legitimate call is yet to be answered.
Taking the prevailing international security environment into account, Myanmar is of the view that the establishment of Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones serve the practical purpose of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and security assurances. An early signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the South East-Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone—SEANWFZ and its related document by the five Nuclear Weapon States will contribute not only to the non-proliferation and disarmament in the region but to the international peace and security as well. We welcome the readiness expressed by the P5 to sign the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty.

We look forward to the convening the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction with the participation of all the concerned parties in the region.

CTBT, CWC and BTWC

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the recent ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty—CTBT by Guatemala, Guinea and, particularly, Indonesia, which is one of the Annex 2 States.

The continued destruction of the existing chemical weapon stockpiles down to their last quarter is a source of encouragement for the disarmament community.

We would also like to join the previous speakers in welcoming the outcome of the 7th BTWC Review Conference held in Geneva in December 2011.

Myanmar does not harbour any ambition to possess nuclear weapons and other WMDs. Myanmar is a non-possessor state of all WMDs. Despite its priorities and preoccupations with the political, economic and social reforms towards a democratic society, Myanmar is not oblivious of the disarmament treaties to which it is committed. It is considering to ratify them.

ATT and SALW

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Conference on Arms Trade Treaty in July was not conclusive. For an internationally and legally binding disarmament instrument to be universal, effective and successful in its application, the inalienable rights of States to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and self-defense are, first and foremost, to be preserved and protected. Myanmar hopes that this fundamental principle will be strictly observed in an ATT that would emerge.

Myanmar welcomes the outcome of the 2nd Review Conference of the UN PoA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade and Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
Conference on Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar reaffirms its support for the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. The unique composition of the CD is a strength in itself to deal with the international security issues that we face today. CD has produced important disarmament instruments in the past. Now is the time for us to salvage the CD. We share the view of the High Representative for UN Disarmament Affairs Ms. Angela Kane that the deeper roots of the stalemate lie in the CD’s external political environment.

In order to adequately respond to today’s international security challenges, the effectiveness and efficiency of the whole UN disarmament machinery should be reviewed. This could be done, in our view, by convening the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations devoted to Disarmament-SSOD IV.

Myanmar Resolution

Mr. Chairman,

In line with its priority and commitment to the cause of disarmament, Myanmar has been tabling a comprehensive draft resolution on Nuclear Disarmament at the First Committee on an annual basis. We will once again table it at this session.

The draft resolution, among others, comprehensively outlines concrete practical steps towards achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We sincerely hope that UN member states will support and cosponsor our draft resolution.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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