STATEMENT

BY

MR. KO KO SHEIN, COUNSELLOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF MYANMAR

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK, 24 OCTOBER 2012
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

My delegation is delighted to have the opportunity to listen to the reports of the Vice-Presidents of the UN Conference on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Second Review Conference on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (SALW).

Mr. Chairman,

We underscore the fact that the Conventional Weapons pose serious threats and challenges with their devastating effect on humanity.

Bearing this in mind, it is necessary to strike a balance between the supply and the demand sides of the Conventional Weapons.

The production, possession and trade of Conventional Weapons should be strictly maintained between the government entities to avoid the possession of conventional weapons by the non-state actors.

The licit trade between states should also be based on the principles of legitimate use and the right to self-defence of every state.

In this context, excessive use or accumulation of surplus weapons will have greater impact to the fabric of our daily lives.

The trade between developed and developing countries is indeed a steep contrast and we should focus more on innocent civilian population rather than the protectionist arms traders.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan for making every effort and avenue to make a robust Arms Trade Treaty a reality.

However, we still need an additional push to reconcile the differences between member states and different stakeholders.

We wish to emphasize that an achievable, comprehensive, effective and balanced legally binding instrument for the transfer of conventional arms will help to reach the goal of the effective prevention of illicit arms trade in various regions.

My delegation commends Ambassador U Joy Ogwu for her extensive consultations and negotiations to reach a successful conclusion of the Second United Nations Conference on SALW.

We believe that every nation has the right to self-defense and protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
We are of the view that States have the primary responsibility to prevent illicit arms trade and transfer of arms in their own territories.

Mr. Chairman,

Cluster Munitions and Anti-personnel mines are the main causes of maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilian population.

Indiscriminate and excessive use of cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines not only cause damage to the societies but also hamper the development efforts of the government.

Assistance to the victims and assistance to the demining process in the conflict zones are a very appropriate approach to directly address the humanitarian aspects.

In this regard, we commend the efforts made by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) together with other regional and international organizations in extending humanitarian assistance in the demining process and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants to their respective communities.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

We look forward to following closely the issue at hand.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.