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Statement by
Ambassador Hau Do Suan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
at the
United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to
prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

New York, 28 March 2017
Madame President,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to join others in congratulating you for your election to preside over this important conference. I have no doubt in your ability to guide us in achieving our common goals. You have our full support and cooperation.

Myanmar also associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of the Philippines on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Madame President,

Myanmar, like many in this room, would like to see a nuclear weapons-free world. Myanmar's continuous effort of tabling the annual draft resolution on nuclear disarmament at the First Committee of the General Assembly since 1995, is a clear manifestation of our firm and consistent commitment to this end.

Despite the world’s relentless efforts over the past many decades, the process of multilateral nuclear disarmament initiatives have been painfully slow. We are not at all close to achieve what we have been striving for. As a matter of fact, nuclear weapons have been significantly reduced through bilateral negotiations since the end of Cold War. However, a large number of nuclear weapons still exist. At the same time, the qualitative improvement and potential proliferation of nuclear weapons have become a growing concern in recent years. Lack of mutual trust and political will among nuclear weapon states and proliferation of nuclear weapons will encourage nuclear arms raise. That will become a serious threat to international peace and security in the backdrop of increasingly complex global security challenges.
Therefore, it is most pertinent and opportune to convene this important high level conference with a view to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, and for their total elimination. We are of the view that successful implementation of such instrument will be a long-term process and require political commitment. This will also further revitalize nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives at the United Nations.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the convening of the high-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September last year in conjunction with the 71st session of the General Assembly. The meeting provided an opportunity to remind international community once again that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are intrinsically interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The two processes will always go hand in hand. In this respect, the established nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world have significantly contributed toward strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. The Instrument should contain provisions that encourages the establishment of such zones to assure total absence of nuclear weapons in respective territories.

Madame President,

Once again, I would like to express our appreciations to you for the efforts that you have made in preparation of this conference. We understand that different views and challenges will come before you in the process, but we look forward to
working together with you and the participating parties with a view to building this world a safer place to live for all.

I thank you.

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