



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations Offices and Other International Organizations
in Geneva**

on behalf of

the ASEAN Member States

**in the General Debate of the First Committee
60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
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Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour and privilege to take the floor on behalf of the Association of the South East Asian Nations: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own delegation, Myanmar.

2. At the outset, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you on your unanimous election as the Chairman of the First Committee. We are delighted to see a distinguished diplomat from our region chairing this important Committee. Our tribute also goes to the other members of the Bureau. I assure you of the fullest cooperation and support of the ASEAN delegations.

High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

3. While we welcome the just-concluded High-Level Plenary Meeting, we are however disappointed that its Outcome Document failed to make any reference on disarmament and non-proliferation. We hope that a follow-up process on the Outcome Document will be held in a transparent, inclusive and open-ended manner.

Resolutions on nuclear disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

4. The ASEAN countries believe that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons is a very important contribution to the international community's efforts for peace and security. It is the conviction of the ASEAN countries that, in view of the recent political developments, there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons.

5. The ASEAN countries also reaffirm the unanimous conclusion of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this regard, we, the ASEAN countries, continue to support and intend to co-sponsor the resolution, tabled every year by Malaysia, reaffirming this important ruling.

6. For a number of years, the ASEAN countries have co-sponsored the yearly resolutions, initiated by Myanmar, calling upon the nuclear weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. The resolution urges the nuclear weapon States, as an immediate measure, to de-alert and de-activate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to further reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapon systems. It also calls for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament.

7. These two resolutions are part of the ASEAN members' contributions to the cause of disarmament. This year, Malaysia and Myanmar, with the support of ASEAN and other co-sponsors, will re-table these resolutions. It is our ardent hope that these resolutions will enjoy broader support and increased co-sponsorship.

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation

Mr. Chairman,

8. The ASEAN countries have consistently stressed the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). We reiterate our call on the nuclear weapon States to make further efforts towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

9. We welcome the Final Declaration of the Fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT held in New York last two weeks and measures to promote for its early entry into force. We also reiterate the importance of the twelve concrete measures, adopted at its last Conference held in Vienna in September 2003. We welcome the recent ratification of the CTBT by Madagascar and Vanuatu and signing by Lebanon. As a region struck severely by the Tsunami at the end of last year, we are delighted to see the initiative to make a maximum use of the CTBT verification system for the scientific and civil benefits, including for tsunami warning systems.

Mr. Chairman,

10. We regret that the 2005 NPT Review Conference held in New York in May 2005 did not achieve any substantive result. We urge all parties concerned to demonstrate their political will to overcome their difference of views and work for concerted action on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

11. We emphasise the importance of the full and non-selective implementation of the NPT in the areas of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and welcome the positive outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In particular, the ASEAN countries also welcome the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States Parties are committed under Article VI of the Treaty. We reiterate our view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We, therefore, call once again for the full and effective implementation of the practical steps set out in the 2000 Final Document. In this connection, we reaffirm our conviction that there exists an urgent need for the nuclear weapon States to take concrete measures to fulfill their obligations under the NPT.

Missiles and the Moscow Treaty

Mr. Chairman,

12. We share the view that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, as a contribution to international peace and security. We continue to believe that the concerns related to missile proliferation are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. We will work together with member states, to contribute to the United Nations endeavour to address the issue of missiles in all its aspects, by identifying areas where consensus can be reached, including the establishment of Panel of Governmental Experts on Missile in 2007.

13. We also note the entry into force of the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions between the Russian Federation and the United States of America as a step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons. This Treaty should be implemented in accordance with the principles of irreversibility and transparency. It is our

hope that the United States and Russia will both reduce the level of their operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads as stipulated in the Treaty by the end of 2012.

Biological and Chemical Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

14. We take note of the decision of the Fifth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) that the States Parties should meet annually in the lead-up to the Sixth Review Conference in 2006 and the Meeting of Experts should be held prior to each annual meeting.

15. We welcome the convening of the second annual meeting of the States Parties in Geneva in December 2004 and urge the States Parties to continue to develop their own national capacities for response, investigation and mitigation in response to infectious and deliberate diseases. We also welcome the convening of Third Meeting of Experts from States Parties in Geneva in June 2005 and commend their efforts to develop and implement the codes of conduct in order to prevent the deliberate or inadvertent misuse of science for purposes contrary to the BWC.

16. We take note of the convening of the Ninth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague in November 2004 and reaffirm our commitment to the provisions of the verification regime of the CWC. We further underline the urgency of resolving the issues with a view to paving the way for the effective, full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

Conventional Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

17. The ASEAN countries note with appreciation the positive result of the Second Biennial Meeting on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects held in New York in July 2005.

18. We welcome the adoption of an international instrument to enable the States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons at the 60th Session of the General Assembly. We are of the view that the adoption of such instrument is closely related with other disarmament efforts, especially towards the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, which, we believe, should be accorded adequate attention by the international community.

19. We take note that the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction has been ratified and acceded to by 147 countries. We also take note of the convening of the First Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 November to 3 December 2004.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

Mr. Chairman,

20. We strongly believe that the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) constituted by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as

positive steps towards attaining the objectives of global nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned.

21. We extend our deep appreciation to the Government of Mexico for hosting the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear Weapon Free Zones at Tlateloco from 26-28 April 2005. We welcome the Declaration adopted by the said Conference and we are convinced that the measures contained therein can serve as the basis to strengthen the nuclear-weapon-free zone regime and contribute to disarmament and non-proliferation processes, and in particular to analyse ways of cooperation that can contribute to achieving the universal goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

22. The ASEAN countries, through sustained efforts, have successfully established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South East Asia. The South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) had entered into force on 27 March 1997. A protocol is annexed to the treaty for accession by nuclear-weapon States (NWS). For SEANWFZ to be fully operational and effective, it is essential that nuclear-weapon States sign the Protocol at an early date.

23. To this end, the States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty are holding direct consultations with the five nuclear-weapon States on the signing of the Protocol, which lays down their commitments under the Treaty. Although there are still a few outstanding issues, we consider these on-going consultations as steps in the right direction towards securing the support of the nuclear-weapon States for the Zone by their early signing of the Protocol to the Treaty. In this regard, we welcome the readiness of China to sign the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty. The States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty welcome the Chinese gesture and reiterate our wish to see all the five nuclear-weapon States sign the Protocol together.

SSOD IV

Mr. Chairman,

24. Mindful of the fast developing events in the international peace and security environment, we reiterate our support for convening the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD IV) with the participation of all Member States of the United Nations as well as the need for SSOD IV to review and assess the implementation of the final document of SSOD I, while reaffirming its principles and priorities.

Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II)

Mr. Chairman,

25. We recall the signing of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) at the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in 2003, which decided to establish an ASEAN Community comprising the three pillars, namely, political and security cooperation, economic cooperation and socio-cultural cooperation in line with the ASEAN Vision 2020, as a Community of South East Asian Nations, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. We also recall with the adoption by the ASEAN Leaders of the Vientiane Action Programme, the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plan of Action; the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors; and the progress made in the implementation of programmes and projects building up to the realization of the ASEAN Community as enshrined in the Bali Concord II.

ARF process and confidence building measures

Mr. Chairman,

26. The ASEAN countries continue to attach special importance to confidence building efforts among the countries in the region. ASEAN has been steadfastly undertaking concrete measures to enhance regional security through various initiatives at the ASEAN Regional Forum. The ARF also welcomed the enhancement of interfaith dialogues aimed at promoting mutual understanding and trust among the peoples in the region.

27. We note the positive developments in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) process through inter-session activities and linkages between Track I and Track II. We take note with satisfaction of the fruitful discussions and exchange of views at the 12th ARF held in Vientiane in July 2005, which welcomed the admission of Timor-Leste as the 25th participant in the ARF.

28. We are particularly encouraged that the 12th ARF has reaffirmed the crucial role of ARF as the main political and security forum in the region. We resolve to ensure that ASEAN shall continue to enhance its leading role to further the momentum of cooperation in further advancing the ARF process, as its contribution to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

29. We are gratified that the ARF has also recognized the purpose and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the Southeast Asia (TAC), which can serve as a very important code of conduct governing the inter-state relations in the region and for the promotion of cooperation, amity and friendship within Southeast Asia and between ASEAN and other ARF participants. We also welcome the recent accession to the Treaty by Mongolia and New Zealand and the declaration of intention to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia by Australia in July 2005. In this connection, we call on non-Southeast Asian countries to consider acceding to TAC.

Conference on Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

30. We reaffirm the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. We are, however, disappointed and concerned by the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament and note with regret that the Conference on Disarmament was still unable to reach an agreement on the programme of work at its 2005 session. It is our hope that the States concerned will demonstrate their commitment to the process of disarmament and exercise the political will to overcome this deadlock and reach amicable solution in the near future.

31. We also note with appreciation that during the 2005 annual session, the successive Presidents of the Conference had convened formal and informal plenary meetings on the issues of the agenda and other issues relevant to the current international security environment. In particular, the Conference, under the Presidency of Norway, convened four structured plenary meetings on four core issues of the agenda of the CD.

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

32. We wish to take this opportunity to express, once again, our appreciation to the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean and Africa for their effective contributions towards international peace and security. Regional Seminars and Forums, which were organized by those Centres, effectively contribute to the progress of ongoing security and disarmament process in respective regions.

33. We highly appreciate and fully support the dynamic activities and the substantial contributions to the security dialogue raising the awareness of disarmament issues in the region by the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman,

34. We once again renew our commitment to multilateralism as an important means of pursuing and achieving our common objectives in the fields of disarmament and our determination to further promote multilateralism in this respect.

35. It is now more urgent than ever for us, the international community, to strive for international peace and security and redouble our efforts and live up to our commitments to the goal of creating a nuclear-weapon-free world. We, the ASEAN countries, once again reaffirm our commitment to work cooperatively to achieve these goals as a matter of utmost priority.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.