



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin,

Ambassador

Representative of the Union of Myanmar

to the First Committee,

at the General Debate of the First Committee,

62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee. We also extend our tribute to the members of the bureau. We are confident that under your able leadership, there will be a fruitful outcome. We assure you our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important task.

My delegation joins others in welcoming the new High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte and wish him success in his endeavours. We also wish to express our deep appreciation to Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, the former Chairperson.

The Myanmar delegation associates itself with the statement of the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Committee on 8 October 2007.

Mr. Chairman,

Our endeavour to address the subject of weapons of mass destruction, particularly the nuclear weapons continues to draw considerable attention by the international community. Together with the member states of this world body, we are striving to achieve the common goal of the disarmament agenda.

The NPT has been the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the lack of progress on implementation of Article VI, particularly in light of the 2000 agreement on the 13 practical steps is disappointing. The 2005 Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference concluded without a substantive final document. Subsequently, there was a lack of reference to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in the Outcome Document of the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly. This year, the first Prepcom of the 2010 NPT Review Conference was held in Vienna. We believe that the Prepcom is a good start for the Review Conference. Myanmar has consistently maintained that the two processes of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are inter-related and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chairman,

The existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), particularly nuclear weapons, continues to pose the greatest threat to mankind. Amid this alarming environment, there are reports that large stocks of nuclear weapons continue to exist. Myanmar believes that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the threat of use of the nuclear weapons. For this reason Myanmar has been tabling a comprehensive draft resolution in the First Committee in the past decade that calls upon the nuclear-weapon-states to

undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat with a view to achieving the total elimination of those weapons.

At this session, Myanmar will again table a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament. We earnestly hope that it will continue to receive the broad support of the member states as in previous years.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has consistently stressed the importance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT and the NPT. It has been over 10 years since the treaty was opened for signature. To date, the treaty enjoys near universal support as it has been signed by 177 States of whom 140 have ratified it. We call upon all states, particularly the remaining nuclear-weapon-states to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible.

The Declaration at the 2005 Conference on Facilitating the Entry in Force of the CTBT, the launching of the Third Joint Ministerial Statement of Support for the CTBT of 2006, and the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT) in September 2007 are positive developments in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is a positive step towards attaining the objectives of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the entering into force of the South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). To commemorate this important anniversary, ASEAN will be tabling a resolution entitled, "Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)" during this session. Myanmar, together with other ASEAN member states will be co-sponsoring this resolution. We invite the member countries to support the resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

Another issue that has serious implications for the peace and security of the world is the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). This is a core issue of the Conference on Disarmament. Myanmar believes that the use of outer space by nations, for peaceful purposes or otherwise, is a common concern of every nation. The Conference on Disarmament has a primary role to play in addressing this important subject.

In this regard, Myanmar has been co-sponsoring the resolution on PAROS tabled by Egypt and Sri Lanka annually in the General Assembly for the past few years. Similarly, we have been supporting the resolution on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities sponsored by the Russian Federation in this Committee. These resolutions achieved broad support of the member states.

Myanmar supports the need to negotiate and conclude, as soon as possible, a legally binding international instrument to prevent weaponization of outer space, as the existing instruments are inadequate to cover comprehensively the issue of the weaponization of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

While emphasizing the need to address the question of WMD, we should not overlook the menace of small arms and light weapons. These weapons inflict serious casualties to hundreds of thousands of people each year. We place great importance on the 2001 UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons SALW. The two core issues relating to the problem of illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, namely, the strict control over private ownership of small arms and prevention of supplies of small arms and, prevention of supplies of small arms to non-state groups must be adequately addressed. Myanmar together with ASEAN members will work at the regional as well as at international levels for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

On the work of the Conference on Disarmament, my delegation notes with regret that a balanced and comprehensive programme of work could not be agreed upon by the Member States till now. As the Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, we sincerely hope that the parties concerned will demonstrate their commitments to the process of disarmament and exercise the political will to overcome this impasse.

Mr. Chairman,

This year's session of the First Committee coincides with a time the Secretary General of the United Nations is placing emphasis on revitalizing the international disarmament agenda. We welcome this move and commit ourselves to continue working towards the realization of disarmament.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.