

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. U KYAW MOE TUN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA AT THE
2019 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
(GENEVA, 30 JULY 2019)**

Mr. President,

- At the outset, I would like to join others in expressing our deepest condolences for passing away of Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano of IAEA.
- Since this is the first time that I take the floor under your presidency, I would like to congratulate you (H.E. Mr. Duong Chi Dung, Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,) on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament.
- I assure you of the Myanmar Delegation's full support and cooperation throughout your presidency.
- Let me express my sincere thanks to the tireless efforts of your predecessors – Ukraine, UK, US and Venezuela, striving to ensure the swift beginning of the substantive works of our forum.

Mr. President,

- The CD, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement on disarmament related matters.
- The World is looking on the Conference to live up to the high expectation as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.
- Past twenty years have been too long to wait for things to happen in the Conference on Disarmament.
- For different reasons, consensus was elusive on draft Programme of Work.

Mr. President,

- Although the first and foremost priority for the Conference on Disarmament is the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work with a negotiation mandate, Myanmar delegation is of the view that the substantive discussions on all agenda items of the CD bring us a better level of understanding of each other's priorities and security concerns.
- It might also lead to a common ground for a programme of work of the CD and it might bring the CD back to action in the years to come.
- Against this backdrop, Myanmar always welcomes and supports, every effort made by your delegation and successive Presidencies as an important step in the right direction.
- Mr. President, I would like to thank you and your delegation for the draft Programme of Work with equal footing to move forward the work of the CD.
- I would like to express my deep appreciation to you, Mr. President, for a manner that you have been carrying out consultations with member states to listen to the member states' opinions and suggestion.

Mr. President,

- Nuclear disarmament has been a principled objective for the United Nations since the adoption of the first UNGA resolution.
- I wish to express my appreciation to the President for organizing the discussion on cessations of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. I would like to thank the panelists Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez of Sri Lanka and Mr. Robert Muller of Austria for their informative presentation and thoughts.
- As my delegation clearly stated at many occasions, I would like to reaffirm that Nuclear Disarmament is our top priority for the whole global disarmament

agenda. This is also the undisputed position of G-21. Myanmar attaches paramount importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

- At the same time, we are equally committed to other important issues such as a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), the prevention of arms race in outer space (PAROS) and negative security assurances (NSA).

Mr. President,

- We all aim for a world without nuclear weapons. We are of the view that the flexibility of nuclear weapons states and the constructive approaches of all other states can maintain and contribute to the global peace and security. As the world peace and security is seriously challenged by various threats, maintaining healthy relations among major countries, in particular, nuclear weapon states is of utmost importance to the settlement of global strategic problems.
- Despite growing call for nuclear disarmament by the international community, achieving a world without nuclear weapons remains a distant goal. Bold and swift actions particularly by the nuclear weapon states are needed to achieve that goal.
- Myanmar firmly believes that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The NPT Review Conference which will take place next year will provide us yet another opportunity to discuss the issue.
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty plays a crucial role in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We would urge Annex2 States of the CTBT which have not ratified yet to demonstrate renewed political commitments to achieve the earliest entry into force of this important treaty. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO for his briefing at this Conference on the update of the CTBT and work of the CTBTO. We welcome and congratulate Zimbabwe for becoming 168th State to ratify the CTBT.

Mr. President,

- Bearing in mind of our main goal of the world without nuclear weapons, Myanmar together with like-minded member states will present again the annual resolution on nuclear disarmament at the forthcoming 74th session of the United National General Assembly. We look forward to receiving support from all member states of the UN.

Mr. President,

- Let me conclude by underlining that getting substantive work back in CD clearly depends on genuine political will of member states and their flexibility.
- We all have to take it seriously to move forward the substantive work of the CD in the positive and right direction. Failure or success of the CD lies on all members of the CD. The world is watching us.
- I thank you, Mr. President.
