MYANMAR

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Statement delivered by

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the United Nations, Geneva

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Mr. Chairman,

- First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the Chair of the First Committee of the 74th UNGA. Under your able leadership and guidance, we are confident that the work of the Committee will produce fruitful outcome. Please be assured of our delegation's full support and cooperation.
- Myanmar associates itself with the statements delivered by ASEAN and NAM. I would like to add following points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

- The United Nations was founded over seventy years ago with the objectives to bring peace and security and to lessen the threats to mankind.
- Although significant progresses have been made throughout these years, the world is still facing more violence, extremism, terrorism, domestic and regional armed conflicts, resulted in unprecedented scale of civilian casualties and mass displacements.

Mr. Chairman,

- We have not been able to fulfill the principal purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security.
- The threat of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, still pose a great concern amid renewed armed conflicts and the emerging trend of unconventional security threat.
- Nuclear disarmament has always been the highest priority in Myanmar's disarmament agenda. In order to accomplish this priority, we are working with the international community towards total elimination of the nuclear weapons. Since 1995, Myanmar together with like-minded countries has demonstrated its dedication towards nuclear disarmament by tabling a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament at the First Committee of General Assembly every year.
- I would like to take this opportunity to express Myanmar's deep appreciations to member states for their co-sponsorship and support of the resolution. This year, we will table the draft resolution again and look forward to receiving continued support from all member states.

Mr. Chairman,

- Myanmar welcomes the adoption of various arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements which were concluded and reached bilaterally, regionally and in multilateral stages. However, on the other hand, we share concern about the recent ending of the INF treaty that was adopted more than three decades ago. The treaty was aimed for reduction of nuclear arsenals and elimination of an entire category of nuclear weapons of the two largest possessors of nuclear weapons.
- Moreover, we are witnessing the conflict persisting, terrorism spreading and the risk of a new arms race growing. Worldwide military expenditures are alarmingly increasing. According to the World Bank data, total military expenditures reached 1.782 Trillion in 2018. Today, the world has been under the dangerous threat of growing armament.
- In this regard, we call on all state parties to the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation agreements to adhere to and implement earnestly all provisions of such agreements to save our planet and the succeeding generation from the scorch of wars.

Mr. Chairman,

- Myanmar recognizes the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. Since we are only a few months away from 2020 NPT review conference, Myanmar would like to urge all parties to NPT, particularly the Nuclear Weapons States, for the full and urgent compliance with their obligations under Article VI of the treaty. With the strong commitment of the parties to the treaty, we are confident that the treaty could be implemented effectively.
- In nuclear disarmament endeavours, the successful adoption of TPNW was also another progress. As a signatory member of the treaty, Myanmar is actively considering to ratify it. We strongly encourage fellow member countries to join the Treaty to demonstrate political will towards nuclear disarmament.
- In the same vein, Myanmar believes that CTBT plays a crucial role in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation welcomes and congratulates Zimbabwe which has ratified CTBT recently and becomes the 168th State party. Myanmar calls upon all states that have not signed or ratified the Treaty, particularly the remaining Annex 2 States, to do so without further delay.
- We also reaffirm the importance of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, including Southeast Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone, to the existing global non-proliferation regime. We continue to support the ongoing efforts toward the establishment of such zones

especially in the Middle East. In this regard, we welcome the decision to convene next month the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction under GA resolution 73/546.

- Furthermore, Myanmar stands ready to continue playing its constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and we call for all concerned parties to reinforce their efforts to reduce tensions and work towards a peaceful solution of the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman,

- The information and communications technologies (ICTs) play an important role for the common good of humankind and to further the sustainable development of all countries. We stress that promoting the use of ICTs for peaceful purposes is the interest of all States to prevent conflict arising from the use of ICTs. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) by the General Assembly resolution 73/27. We support series of consultative meetings held by the Working Group.

Mr. Chairman,

- Myanmar reiterates its firm belief on Conference on Disarmament as a sole multilateral negotiation forum for disarmament and non-proliferation. Myanmar thanks the Presidents of the CD in 2019 for their sincere efforts for moving the CD forward. However, we join other speakers in expressing our regret that another CD session had once again concluded without reaching consensus on draft Programme of Work. We urge the upcoming presidents and members of CD to put their utmost efforts and express their highest flexibility in order to resume its negotiation mandates by adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of work.

- Myanmar strongly believes that the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) continues to have a unique role in building trust and confidence among Member States on various issues in the disarmament sphere. It is the only specialized body in the UN with universal membership in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation. We share concern at the inability of the UNDC to convene its organizational and substantive sessions in 2019 and hope that the substantive sessions would be held in 2020, in a formal setting, so as to fulfill its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

- In conclusion, we are all here today for the purpose to create a peaceful and secure world with prosperity and happiness. As we have witnessed the growing tensions, challenges and threats by multiple stakeholders, disarmament and non-proliferation become the most urgent and important issue to guarantee the peace and security of current and future generations.
- Therefore, we must redouble our efforts for making tangible progress in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. We call for all member states to demonstrate good faith and political will, promote mutual understanding, enhance trustworthy cooperation and ensure responsible collective actions in striving for a world without nuclear weapons.
- I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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