MYANMAR

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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations
Office in Geneva
at the First Committee Thematic Discussion
on "Nuclear weapons"

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 22 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community has the strong commitment to achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Accordingly, member states of the UN are working persistently to materialize this goal. We have witnessed some progress in this regard, and the latest development is the adoption of the TPNW in July 2017.

However, many of us have deep concern with the pace of development and even with the lack of progress. Therefore, we have been warning of the dangers of the accumulation of "rust" in the disarmament agenda. We are witnessing that global disarmament mechanism has been moving in slow pace as a result of continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of disarmament.

This year, most of the disarmament mechanisms had experience of coming to a standstill. We all have been still striving to enable the CD to commence its negotiation mandates for more than two decades. The UNDC was not able to hold its substantive session this year for the first time since 2005. NPT PrepCom could not reach consensus to adopt recommendations for 2020 NPT Review Conference. These are serious alarms for all of us, and we have to further strengthen our collective efforts for the effective implementation of global disarmament agenda to save our world and to maintain global peace and security.

In his statement to the First Committee, the President of the 74th UNGA also reminded all delegations by highlighting that the primary mandate of the United Nations is ensuring peace and security for the people we serve, and it rests with the First Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament is Myanmar's top priority in its disarmament agenda. We always stand ready to cooperate with international community to work towards the total elimination of the nuclear weapons and a world free of nuclear weapons.

Since 1995, Myanmar has expressed its commitment towards nuclear disarmament by tabling "Nuclear Disarmament" resolution at the first committee of general assembly every year.

Last year, the resolution on nuclear disarmament was adopted with the support of wide UN membership. Taking this opportunity, Myanmar would like to express its sincere appreciation to the member states which co-sponsored and supported the adoption of the resolution in previous years.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the co-sponsors, I would like to introduce the draft resolution L.19, entitled "Nuclear disarmament". The draft resolution calls for the international community to take concrete practical steps towards achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The nuclear disarmament will contribute to further achieving peace and security for present and future generations.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the draft resolution underlines the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by all states.

Mr. Chairman,

We cannot achieve nuclear disarmament without engagement with Nuclear-Weapons States. Therefore, we always call for NWS to take effective disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time.

NPT is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Therefore, the draft resolution also stresses the importance of 13 steps and 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament, agreed to by the State Parties in the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conference, respectively.

Furthermore, the draft resolution calls for the early entry into force, universalization and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty as a contribution to nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we welcome the latest ratification by Zimbabwe in February 2019 and signatory by Tuvalu last year.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe that these steps and others in the draft resolution are pragmatic and feasible, and the political will of all countries should be renewed.

I would like to invite all member states to lend your invaluable support on the draft resolution that I have just introduced and demonstrate your commitment to create a nuclear-weapon-free world by co-sponsoring and supporting the draft resolution.

I thank you.

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