MYANMAR

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Statement by

Mr. Ye Minn Thein, Director, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the First Committee Thematic Discussion on "Other Weapons of Mass Destruction"

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Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements made by ASEAN and NAM.

Today, we are witnessing that global peace and security are seriously challenged by various threats. The existence and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security as well as to the mankind. The number of armed conflict has increased. Tensions are rising among states.

Myanmar is deep concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the damage it would cause to the survival of humanity. Nuclear weapon accidents and the potential use of a nuclear weapon by terrorists are also growing concerns in the world today.

In order to respond these challenges, we must redouble our efforts for making tangible progress in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. We believe that heightened tensions and dangers can be resolved through constructive political dialogue, negotiations and engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

The chemical weapons should no longer exist in today's world, and it has an indiscriminate effect on human beings and the natural environment.

We have witnessed the significant achievements made on universalization and destruction of declared chemical weapons under the able guidance of the Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In this regard, we thank the OPCW Secretariat for their hard work.

Our march towards universalization of the Convention continues to yield results. Now, 193 states are parties to the Convention. The destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is a fundamental objective of the OPCW. Approximately 96% of all declared chemical weapons have been successfully destroyed under the verification of the OPCW. We hope that progress continues to be made on the destruction of the remaining stockpiles.

As we have to reach our common objective of a world free of chemical weapons, the destruction obligation must be fulfilled within the time limits established for each possessor state. In this connection, Myanmar welcomes the completion of destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles, chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs), abandoned chemical weapons and old chemical weapons made by the relevant possessor State Parties.

Myanmar encourages states to adhere to the provisions of CWC and establish national measures in compliance with the letter and spirit of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar believes in the important role of the BWC Implementation Support Unit and its meetings of experts, and the meetings of the State Parties and their efforts to pursue all states to effectively implement provisions of the Convention and to strengthen relevant preventive measures, which include information sharing, areas in response and preparedness. We share concern of the funding shortage of convening of the BWC meetings. We are encouraged that during the 2018 meeting of States Parties to the BWC, the delegations reached agreement on measures to address structural and financial issues. We hope that these measures will contribute further to the effective work of BWC.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we all have a commitment of creating a world free of weapons of mass destruction. The only way to ensure the continued existence of the humankind

in a safer world free from the danger of such weapons is to fully implement the UN resolution 1540.

Achieving this goal requires political will and practical efforts by the States especially those which possess such weapons. We call on all states to adhere to relevant disarmament treaties and to continue to work towards the realization of the global disarmament agenda making effective use of multilateralism in good faith.

I thank you.

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