MYANMAR

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Statement by

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Madam Chair,

1. My delegation aligns itself with statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and Thailand on behalf of ASEAN.

Madam Chair,

2. It is no secret that conventional weapons are killing and maiming many a people worldwide. Civilian casualties include innocent women and children. We are living in a world in which more than 500,000 people are killed every year in armed conflicts by arms or explosives.

3. Proliferation of illicit arms and their diversions, if no proper actions are taken, can lead to other serious consequences: it can fuel and sustain armed conflicts; impede the lives of vulnerable communities; encourage human rights violations, including recruitment of child soldiers as affordability and portability of light weapons incite combatants to arm children easily; facilitate organized crimes, terrorism and gun violence, as exemplified by the Las Vegas shooting on 1st October that claimed 58 lives.

Madam Chair,

4. Myanmar supports the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and its International Tracing Instrument, as international norms to curb illicit arms. In February last year, Myanmar hosted a workshop on small arms and light weapons with the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, to

enhance capacity for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action. Myanmar also participated in the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action (BMS6) in June 2016, and welcomes the outcome of the meeting. We believe this meeting has laid good foundations for the upcoming 3rd Review Conference, to be held in June 2018, from which we expect fruitful results.

5. Although capacity constraint is still preventing Myanmar to join the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), we have been participating in meetings of the Convention as observer. We are of the view that this Convention can effectively address humanitarian concerns resulted from the indiscriminate use of conventional weapons. We welcome the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons system (LAWS), established by the Fifth Review Conference.

Madam Chair,

6. We affirm the inherent right of sovereign state to acquire, manufacture, import and retain conventional weapons and their components, for responsible use to safeguard sovereignty.

7. Myanmar supports, in principle, the provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Relevant stakeholders in Myanmar are studying the said instruments for a better understanding, with the aim to joining them at an opportune time. We support initiatives taken under the said instruments to avert indiscriminate use of landmines and cluster munitions, which can lead to adverse humanitarian impacts.

8. The Mine Risk Education Inter-Agency Working Group (MREIAWG) of Myanmar comprising members from relevant ministries has been established since 2012. The Working Group has been conducting training workshops on Mine Risk Education (MRE) in respective states and regions in collaboration with UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs.

9. As a country experiencing internal armed conflicts, we are well-aware of the human sufferings and havoc caused by small arms and light weapons. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), we believe, is instrumental in stopping illicit proliferation of conventional arms, and it plays a pivotal role to realize the Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 4. We welcome the decisions and recommendations taken at the Third Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva in September 2017. We look forward to rewarding outcome of the Fourth Conference of State Parties, under the presidency of Japan.

Madam Chair,

10. Modern technology is making small arms and light weapons increasingly lethal these days. This growing trend cannot be overlooked when we address the challenge posed by small arms and light weapons.

11. I thank you, Madam Chair.

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