MYANMAR

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Statement by

Ambassador Htin LYNN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

At the First Committee Thematic Discussion on "Disarmament Machinery"

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Mr. Chairman,

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

2. Meaningful and verifiable disarmament and non-proliferation measures are the driving wheels for the maintenance of international peace and security, and for the greater good of the present and the future generations. The UN disarmament machinery plays an instrumental role in achieving this goal.

3. Myanmar continues to uphold the Conference on Disarmament as the world's only permanent multilateral disarmament treaty negotiation body, and has been actively participating since its inception.

4. Looking back to the past, the Conference on Disarmament and its predecessors have successfully negotiated major disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, including the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

5. As a proponent of multilateral disarmament diplomacy, Myanmar equally shares the frustration by the international community at the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament. However, Myanmar never gives up its hope on the Conference. Its institutional framework, its composition to date, its past credentials, among others, are to be maximized these days. While we understand the national security concerns of all, flexibility and added

political will are much needed to put the Conference back to track and live up to the expectations of the international community.

6. Nuclear Disarmament, Negative Security Assurances, Fissile Material Treaty, Prevention of Arm race in Outer Space have been our priorities for decades. While nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority of Myanmar, there is a growing need to address the emerging common security challenges, including cyber security, lethal autonomous weapons systems and Chemical and Biological Terrorism. Such concerns should be finding a place in the work of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Myanmar has the honour to chair the working group on "Way Ahead" during the 2017 session of the Conference on Disarmament. We thank all co-facilitators for their invaluable contributions. Notwithstanding the different views on the creation and work of the "Way Ahead" working group, we believe that it constitutes a step in the right direction. We have had useful and substantive discussions on all agenda items of the Conference. We have to work out our differences through such discussions, in the first place, through such discussions as pre-negotiation mode. We hope that telling discussions we have had this year shall contribute substantially to our work next year.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Myanmar believes that forthcoming SSOD-IV will provide an opportunity to take stock of what we have and have not achieved so far, review the functioning and effectiveness of the present disarmament

machinery, as well as to examine emerging security challenges of our disarmament agenda. In this context, we welcome consensus recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the possible objectives and agenda of the SSOD-IV.

9. We commend the United Nations Disarmament Commission for being able to come up with "recommendations on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons," ending nearly two-decade old impasse. At the same time, we stress the need to achieve a consensus in the Working Group of the Commission next year on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non- proliferation of nuclear weapons."

10. We underline the important and valuable role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research-UNIDIR in our work on non-proliferation and disarmament. The insightful researches by the Institute are particularly useful for developing countries with limited research capacity including Myanmar. We call on member states, which are in a position to do so, to financially support the Institute.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We believe that current achievements of the UN disarmament machinery are certainly still far from our common expectations. With our firm commitments and renewed political will, we would be able to revive the genesis of our disarmament architecture. Vibrant UN disarmament machinery shall definitely contribute to beating our swords into ploughshares.

12. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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