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

General Debate of the First Committee of

the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 10 October 2017

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Allow me to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the Chairman of the First Committee of 72nd UNGA. My tribute also goes to the other members of the bureau. You can be assured of our full support and cooperation.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statements of Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

3. We meet here today in witnessing growing tensions and threats to regional and international stability, peace and security. This is a source of concern to my delegation.

4. Myanmar shares the international community's concern over the growing tension threatening regional peace and security in the Korean Peninsula. Myanmar is against any nuclear and missile test by any nation. At the same time, we believe that there is still room for diplomacy and dialogue to play a pivotal role. All parties should work together for the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and resumption of dialogue.

5. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-NPT remains as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. However, Myanmar also believes that the integrity and credibility of NPT is depending on balanced implementation of its three pillars. We must pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In this context, 2020 Review Conference will be a welcome opportunity.

6. We recognize the progress achieved so far under the New START Treaty and encourage its parties making all efforts to meet the Treaty's targets on all categories by February 2018.

7. Closer cooperation and mutual confidence is needed to make the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty more effective.

8. Nuclear disarmament continues to be Myanmar's highest priority. All parties to NPT particularly nuclear-weapon-states must take swift and bold steps in line with their obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

9. The UN disarmament machinery has been in its darkest days for too long. A SSOD-IV constitutes an opportunity to comprehensively review the current situation in the field of disarmament and international security as well as the revitalization of existing disarmament machinery.

10. The Conference on Disarmament, during its 2017 session, was able to conduct substantive informal consultations in the working group on "way ahead" on all the items of the Conference' agenda. My delegation hopes that we can build further on better understanding

we have achieved this year.

11. While recognizing national strategic security concerns and continued existence of differences, Myanmar believes that we should further explore the possibility of initiating, without preconditions, negotiations of a treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices in the Conference on Disarmament. Both non-proliferation and disarmament objectives can be pursued in the negotiating process.

12. In light of technology advancement, security issues that warrant our serious consideration include Prevention of an Arms race in Outer Space-PAROS, Cyber Security and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

13. Universalization and early entry into force are keys to an effective CTBT. We call upon all states that have not signed or ratified the Treaty, particularly the remaining Annex 2 States, to do so without further delay.

14. It is heartening to note that almost 96 % of declared chemical weapons have been destroyed under the verification of the OPCW. We welcome the completion of the verified destruction of Russia's chemical weapons programme last month. On the other hand, we should not tolerate use of such horrible weapons by any state or non-state actors.

15. Closing gaps in implementing the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is also important. We should make every effort in narrowing or closing universality, implementation, response and institutional gaps at the next BWC Review Conference.

16. Myanmar is looking forward to working closely in the upcoming 3rd Review Conference of the 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 (ITI) in March 2018.

17. For many developing countries, full and effective implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 can be facilitated through technical assistance and capacity-building.

Mr. Chairman,

18. To end world hunger sustainably by 2030, we need additional $267 billion per year to invest in rural and urban areas and in social protection. If we could redirect for 15 years only 16% of total annual military expenditure of approximately 1.69 trillion dollars, we shall meet our SDGs by 2030. Subsequently, we would be able to leave a more just, peaceful and prosperous world to our future generations. **Wisdom is better than strength.**

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