MYANMAR

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Statement by

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the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

at the First Committee Thematic Discussion on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

2. Today, the world is under serious threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition to the threat posed by nuclear weapons, we are not completely safe from the danger of Chemical and Biological Weapons as they are considered to be the most proliferated weapons of mass destruction. Despite their legal and treaty implementation regimes, acquiring or use of chemical or biological weapons by terrorists or non-state actors remains critical.

3. Myanmar firmly believes that Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is an important international legal architecture related to WMD**s.**

4. Myanmar recognizes the successful completion of the Eighth Review Conference with the adoption of the final declaration in which future implementations have been set out for achieving the objectives of the Convention by means of more effective realization.

5. Myanmar welcomes the decision of the Conference to hold annual meetings starting at the end of this year in order to seek progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an inter-sessional process. We hope that for the sake of effectiveness of the Convention, the consideration to formulate the verification system would be in the top list for future multilateral negotiations.

6. As a state party, Myanmar reiterates the importance of universalization. The objectives of the Convention cannot be fully realized if one state remains outside the treaty. We urge those who have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

7. Myanmar welcomes action taken by States Parties and regional initiatives to provide assistance and support that would lead to wider accession to the Convention.

8. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction is the only comprehensive multilateral treaty banning an entire category of WMDs, providing for a verification system and promoting the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes. This achievement has to be maintained by its full implementation.

9. It is inspiring to note that almost 96 % of declared chemical weapons have been destroyed under the verification of the OPCW. At the same time, we must not tolerate the use of such horrific weapons by any state or non-state actors.

10. We hope that we will be able to observe the principles of transparency and inclusiveness for the implementation of the CWC regime in the upcoming 4th Review Conference in 2018.

11. Allow me to turn to our national efforts on CWC implementation. Myanmar ratified the Convention in 2015

12. While upholding CWC's principles and objectives, Myanmar has *submitted* the initial Declaration, Annual Declarations for Anticipated Activities for 2015, 2016 and 2017 and Annual report on the National Programmes related to the Protective Purpose to OPCW. Furthermore, we have already informed National Implementation Measures of Myanmar in accord with Article VII in July 2017.

13. Taking this opportunity, I would like to *inform the meeting* that Myanmar is now planning to host "Stakeholders Forum for States Parties in Asia on the Adoption of National Implement Legislation" in order to support to the members of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) of Asia region for their national level legislation.

14. Myanmar has been actively implementing its national programmes with all out efforts through regional and international cooperation to meet its international obligations for prohibition of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

15. While supporting the EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN CoE), Myanmar has formed National CBRN Team on 25th June 2013 with the objectives of collecting the practical information on proposed objectives/actions to mitigate the CBRN risks and response to emergency preparedness.

16. Myanmar is now developing National CBRN Action Plan in cooperation with UNICRI, EU CBRN CoE and national CBRN Team members and CBRN National Working Group members.

Mr. Chairman,

17. In our view, both chemical and biological weapons are inhumane. Any violation of near-universal treaty obligations poses direct challenge to the integrity of respective legal instruments and human civilization. Any violation should never be condoned.

Thank you.

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