

Speaking Notes for Myanmar Delegation  
at the 11th Meeting of the States Parties Meeting of  
Anti-Personal Landmines Treaty  
in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Myanmar as one of the founding members of the Eighteen-Nations Disarmament Committee (ENDC) when it was first established in 1962 is actively participating in the field of Disarmament. Myanmar has been engaging continuously in negotiations and participating in relevant forums of disarmament since then. Myanmar sponsors draft resolution on “nuclear disarmament” annually at the United Nations General Assembly, many member states of the United Nations supports the draft resolution by serving as co-sponsors.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation of nuclear weapons is a threat to the international peace and security. Myanmar is of the view that in order for the utilization of nuclear energy to be peaceful and secure, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation have to be achieved

universally. Myanmar is a firm supporter of global nuclear weapon non-proliferation and a nuclear weapon-free world. Myanmar has been a party to the Treaty of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) since December 1992, and signed the Safeguards Agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol pursuant to the NPT with the International Atomic Energy Agency in April 1995.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar has also acceded to the Treaty on South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) which assures South East Asia a nuclear free region. Myanmar signed the treaty in 1995, and it entered into force in 1997. We believe that establishment of nuclear weapon free zones are effective measures for nuclear weapon non-proliferation and paves to way to complete nuclear disarmament. Myanmar also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in November 1996. This involvement in nuclear disarmament treaties shows Myanmar's dedication towards international and regional peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has already confirmed its position regarding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and its opposition to use, developing and transfer of these weapons of mass destruction in any circumstances. Myanmar signed The treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water on 14 August 1963, and ratified it on 15 November 1963. Moreover, Myanmar signed The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies which is known as "Outer Space Treaty" on 22 May 1967. It ratified the Treaty on 18 March 1970.

Apart from that, Myanmar joined hands in the efforts to ban weapons of mass destruction. It signed The Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof or Sea-Bed Treaty on 11 February 1971, The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction or Biological Weapons Convention on 10 April 1972, and The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production,

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Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction or  
Chemical Weapons Convention on 14 January 1993.

Mr. Chairman,

On the question of Anti-personnel Land Mines, Myanmar believes that if they are indiscriminately used by insurgents or armed groups outside the legal fold of a country, it would cause deaths and injuries to non-combatants including women and children. Consequently transfers and exports of anti-personnel mines contribute to proliferation of such devices and increase the chances of their indiscriminate use. Myanmar maintains that careful consideration on the matter would be the most appropriate way to deal with the issue. Myanmar also believes that the legitimate right of every States to self-defence in matters of its national security must be recognized and respected in considering this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to extend my gratitude, again, to you and the organizing institutions for arranging this Conference.

Thank you, Chairman.

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