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Statement by Myanmar
**at the 12th Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the
Prohibition of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**
**Agenda 10 (d) : Consideration of the general status and operation of the
Convention: Universalizing the Convention**
(6 December 2012)

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

It is our great honour to participate as an observer in the 12th Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the 12 MSP. Our tribute also goes to other members of the bureau. I would also like to express our deep gratitude to His Excellency Minister Prak Sokhonn, President of the 11 MSP, and his team for their outstanding work.

Mr. President,

Myanmar has now ushered in a new era. Since the formation of the new government just 20 months ago, my country has successfully undertaken many key reforms within a short time. With the increasing support and cooperation from the international community, we are confident that we will achieve our goals of democratic transformation, job creation, income generation and poverty alleviation sooner.

One of the top priorities for Myanmar today is to achieve a long-lasting peace in the country. We can now witness the tangible progress in the national reconsolidation process.

While focusing the attention on the aforementioned priorities, Myanmar is at the same time reviewing its domestic laws that are not in line with international norms and practices. We are also reviewing our current status in connection with the Convention on the Prohibition of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Mr. President,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform you of our decision to sign an additional protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to recognize the amendment of the 1995 Small Quantities Protocol.

There are also other progressive developments. For instance, on 18 November this year, Myanmar joined hands with other ASEAN member states in adopting the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, aiming at providing a framework for the members to collectively tackle humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Now, Myanmar is in the process of setting up a National Mine Action Authority and the Myanmar Mine Action Centre.

Mr. President,

I would like to brief this meeting about the mine action activities that are being carried out in Myanmar. The Mine Risk Education Inter-Agency Working Group (MREIAWG), consisting of 27 representatives from the relevant Ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, was formed on 27 April 2012. Since its inception, a number of workshops on Mine Risk Education were held in Nay Pyi Taw and the relevant States and Divisions in Myanmar, with the collaboration of the UN agencies and NGOs.

It is important to learn good practices from other countries to implement effective mine action activities in the country. Bearing this in mind, members of the Working Group paid a study visit to Cambodia recently. Domestically, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar is now readying a plan to conduct Mine Risk Education activities and Mine Victims Assistance in risk-prone areas.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the respective governments, the UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, who have contributed to our mine action activities.

Mr. President,

Myanmar attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. This is attested to by her accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011. In his address on the occasion of honouring the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2012 in Myanmar, the Vice-President of Myanmar, Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, stressed the importance of recognizing the issues of persons with disabilities in the society.

Mr. President,

One of the basic principles enshrined in our foreign policy is to actively contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. This policy consistently supports disarmament and opposes arms race, production and sales.

In line with this policy, we do not lose sight of the Convention on the Prohibition of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. We are closely following the progressive activities related to it. Needless to say, our participation as an observer in this meeting clearly reflects our keen interest in the present and future work of the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
