Please check against delivery

Statement
by
H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin
Ambassador, Representative of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar

in the Thematic Debate
of
the First Committee

(New York, 16 October 2008)
Statement by H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin,
Ambassador, Representative of the Union of Myanmar
on Agenda Item 89 (v): Nuclear Disarmament
(New York, 16 October 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour and privilege to introduce draft resolution entitled "Nuclear Disarmament" contained in document A/C.1/63/L. 14, under agenda item 89 (v) on behalf of the following co-sponsors: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Mr. Chairman,

Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.14 addresses nuclear disarmament to which co-sponsors of the draft attach the highest priority.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses one of the greatest threats to the future of humanity. These weapons have the potential to destroy civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet.

Security of a nation can be assured without nuclear weapons. The fact that there are countries which have voluntarily given up the nuclear option attests to this.

Additionally, billions of dollars spent on the nuclear forces could be spent to alleviate the plight of the world’s poor and hungry people.

The only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, the International Court of Justice reaffirms that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

In short, our planet will be safer and more secure without these weapons. International peace and security will also be greatly enhanced.
Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution is co-sponsored by all members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and many countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the others.

I do not intend to dwell at length on the content of the draft resolution, as the substance is essentially the same as that of previous years. I just wish to highlight that this draft resolution addresses the issue of nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive manner, and by this draft resolution we call for the full and effective implementation of the thirteen practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation seeks the valuable support of Member States for the draft resolution.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

* * * * *