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Statement
by
U Kyaw Zwar Minn
Delegate of the Delegation of the Union of Myanmar

at the Thematic Debate
of the First Committee
of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 24 October 2008)
Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Chairman,

The world today is faced with challenges which have direct bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security. We believe that the regional centres for peace and disarmament help meet the challenges we face by contributing substantially to fostering a climate of understanding and cooperation among States in the areas of peace and disarmament. The centres not only provide education on disarmament and non-proliferation but function as a forum for the States in the region to interact on security issues of regional and global concern.

Mr. Chairman,

At the sixty-second session of the General Assembly last year, we welcomed the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu. We are happy to note that the Centre has been operating well since its inauguration in August 2008. We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. We thank particularly the Government of Nepal for its timely financial contribution to support the local staff members of the Centre, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the operation of the Centre.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the important work done by the Centre in the past year in promoting international and regional dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation. The Conferences held in Japan and the Republic of Korea offered the participants from Governments, NGOs, academia, research institutions and international and regional organizations an opportunity to discuss various issues on disarmament and non-proliferation.
We are confident that the regional centre which is strategically located in the region would serve effectively the needs of the 43 countries which form its constituency. The active role of the Centre as the primary United Nations regional entity for disarmament and security will promote and enhance dialogue at the sub-regional and regional through the organizing of meetings and conferences on disarmament related issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The Centre's capacity to function effectively on a sustainable basis will depend largely on the resources made available to it. Myanmar shares the view expressed in the Secretary-General's report that sporadic and insufficient core funding impacts directly on the sustainability and quality of the activities and services provided by the Centre. It is our hope that adequate resources, from regular budget as well as from voluntary contributions, will be made available to the Centre.

Thank you.