Statement by

Mr. Pye Soe Aung, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations
at the First Committee Thematic Discussion
on “Other Weapons of Mass Destruction”

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New York, 23 October 2018
Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) and ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's world has been increasingly threatened by the proliferation of mass destructive weapons. The existence and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace security as well as to the mankind. We should work together and double our efforts towards total elimination of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical is the only comprehensive multilateral treaty banning an entire category of WMD, providing for a verification system and promoting the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes. My delegation strongly supports the UN Secretary-General's commitment to restoring respect for the global norm against chemical weapons.

We all agree that chemical weapons still have place in today's arsenals. We are committed to complete elimination of chemical weapons stocks piles.

In this regard, we are heartened by OPCW's announcement that over 96% of declared chemical weapons have been destroyed under the verification of the OPCW. At the same time, we should not tolerate use of such horrible weapons by any state or non-state actors.

Myanmar ratified the Convention in 2015. Myanmar always adheres to its obligations to the Convention with a view to achieving effective progress towards the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

Over the past 20 years since enter into force, the OPCW has a number of important achievements. They include among others the completion of the
chemical demilitarization process by the Russian Federation, the destruction of remaining category 2 chemical weapons from Libya.

To further strengthening the role of OPCW, we look forward to the successful outcome of the Fourth Review Conference of the CWC to be held next month

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar firmly believes that the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is an important the international legal architecture related to WMDs.

Myanmar ratified the BWC in 2014. As a state party of BWC, Myanmar strongly adheres to the obligations of the Convention.

Since the Convention is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, Myanmar reiterates the importance of universalization of the Convention. We called for those who have not done so to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the 2018 BWC Meetings of Experts took place in Geneva from 7 to 16 August 2018. We also recognize the progress achieved by the 2017 Meeting of the States Parties, including agreement on an inter-sessional programme from 2018 to 2020 consisting of annual Meetings of States Parties and Meetings of Experts.

Mr. Chairman,

In addressing the danger of WMDs, full and effective implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) can undoubtedly contribute to making the world a safer place for all of us.

It is imperative for all member states to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to acquire or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. Even we all need to work together to prevent falling such WMD into the hands of terrorists.
Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to thank the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for extending its assistance to Member States to fully implement the key requirements of UNSC Resolution 1540, including the preparation of voluntary national implementation and capacity building plans in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.

We reaffirm the essential need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction. In line with the NAM, we support the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action as required.

Mr. Chairman,

Graveness of the weapons of mass destruction, we call for all member states to adhere to the related international obligations with a view to achieving effective progress towards the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction including chemical and biological weapons.

Thank you.

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