



MYANMAR

Check against Delivery

Statement

by

H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin,

Ambassador

Representative of the Union of Myanmar

on behalf of the ASEAN Members States

at the General Debate of the First Committee

of the

62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

9 October, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour and privilege to take the floor on behalf of the Association of the South East Asian Nations: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.

2. I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you on your assumption of duty as the Chairman of the First Committee. We are delighted to see a distinguished diplomat from a friendly country chairing this important Committee. Our tribute also goes to the other members of the Bureau. We look forward to working closely with you for the success of the meeting.

Resolutions on nuclear disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

3. As in previous years, we reaffirm our support for and will continue to co-sponsor the resolution entitled "**Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons**", tabled annually by Malaysia since 1997.

4. For over a decade, the ASEAN countries have co-sponsored the annual resolution entitled "**Nuclear Disarmament**", initiated by Myanmar that urges the nuclear weapon States to cease immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. The resolution urges the nuclear weapon States, as an immediate measure, to de-alert and de-activate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to further reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapon systems. It also calls for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament.

5. The two resolutions underscore ASEAN members' commitment to the cause of disarmament. We do hope that these resolutions will enjoy broader support and increased co-sponsorship at this session.

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation

Mr. Chairman,

6. The ASEAN countries have consistently stressed the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We reiterate our call on the nuclear weapon States to make further efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

7. We welcome the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT) held in Vienna in September 2007 that called on those States that had not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay.

8. The treaty now enjoys near universal support. We also urge all states, particularly the remaining nuclear-weapon-states, whose ratification is required for its entry into force, to do so.

Mr. Chairman,

9. ASEAN is disappointed that the 2005 NPT Review Conference held in New York in May 2005 did not achieve any substantive result. In view of this, it is imperative that the preparatory process for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which was launched this year, would lead towards a substantive outcome. ASEAN reaffirms our position on this subject and urges all UN Member States to work towards a consensus to address the common threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

10. We emphasise the importance of the full and non-selective implementation of the NPT. The ASEAN countries also welcome the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to pursue negotiations in good faith, particularly on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, to which all States Parties are committed under Article VI of the Treaty. In this connection, we reaffirm our conviction that there exists an urgent need for the nuclear weapon States to take concrete measures to fulfill their obligations under the NPT.

Missiles and the Moscow Treaty

Mr. Chairman,

11. We share the view that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles proliferation.

12. We also consider that the entry into force of the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions between the Russian Federation and the United States of America is an important step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons.

13. We reaffirm our belief that the concerns related to missile proliferation are best addressed through agreements that are multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory.

Biological and Chemical Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

14. The existence of biological and chemical weapons continues to pose great danger to mankind.

15. We welcome the successful outcome of the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction in Geneva last year. We call on States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) as early as possible.

16. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. We welcome the convening of the High-Level Meeting on the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention in New York on 27 September 2007. We call on all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Conventional Weapons

Mr. Chairman,

17. The ASEAN countries remain deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many parts of the world. We recognize the need to establish and maintain control over private ownership of small arms, and to prevent supply of small arms and light weapons to non-state groups.

18. We take note that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) has been ratified and acceded to by 155 countries.

19. We call on all states to support the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

SSOD IV

20. ASEAN reiterates its support for the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. Towards this end, ASEAN supported and actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in New York this year. This is in line with our call for further steps towards the convening of the Fourth Special Session with the participation of all Member States of the United Nations as well as the need for the SSOD IV to review and assess the implementation of SSOD I.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

Mr. Chairman,

21. We strongly believe that the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) constituted by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are positive steps towards attaining the objectives of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

22. ASEAN too established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South East Asia on 15 December 1995 to promote peace and stability in our region. The South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) entered into force on 27 March 1997. A protocol is annexed to the treaty for accession by nuclear-weapon States (NWS). It is essential that nuclear-weapon States sign the Protocol at an early date to make the treaty fully operational and effective. We welcome the readiness of China to sign the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty. The States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty welcome this gesture and reiterate our wish to see all the five nuclear-weapon States sign the Protocol.

23. To ensure that State Parties are able to fully realize the goals and objectives set forth in the SEANWFZ Treaty, a Plan of Action was adopted by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Commission held in Manila in July 2007. The Plan of Action for the next five years from 2007 to 2012 is adopted to provide tangible plans and benchmarks for effective implementation of the Treaty.

24. In order to achieve the objectives of the SEANWFZ Treaty and in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the entering into force of the treaty, Indonesia, on behalf of State Parties to the Treaty will table a resolution entitled “**Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)**” during this session. We do hope that our resolution will receive broad support from member countries.

Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II)

Mr. Chairman,

25. We recall the signing of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) at the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in 2003, which decided to establish an ASEAN Community comprising the three pillars, political and security cooperation, economic cooperation and socio-cultural cooperation in line with the ASEAN Vision 2020, as a Community of South East Asian Nations, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. To realize the goal of an ASEAN community sooner, the ASEAN leaders decided at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines to bring forward the deadline for establishment of the ASEAN Community from 2020 to 2015.

26. We also recall the adoption by the ASEAN Leaders of the Vientiane Action Programme, the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plan of Action; the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors; and the progress made in the implementation of programmes and projects building up to the realization of the ASEAN Community as enshrined in the Bali Concord II.

ARF process and confidence building measures

Mr. Chairman,

27. The ASEAN countries continue to attach special importance to confidence building efforts among the countries in the region. In this regard, ASEAN has been steadfastly undertaking concrete measures to enhance regional security through various initiatives at the ASEAN Regional Forum.

28. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Manila in August, Sri Lanka became the 27th participant of ARF. We welcome Sri Lanka's commitment to contribute to the attainment of ARF's goals. The meeting noted with satisfaction the ARF's strong commitment to work toward the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as United Nations resolution 61/66 and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening controls of the transfer of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), to help prevent these weapons from being acquired or used by terrorist or other non-state groups. The meeting also welcomed the holding of the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise in Singapore on 22-23 January 2007, and expressed that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems, including its potential use by terrorists, remained a serious security challenge.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

29. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) is a key code of conduct governing relations between states and a diplomatic instrument for the promotion of

peace and stability in the region. We welcome the recent accession of France, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to the TAC. We also acknowledge the declarations of the United Kingdom and the European Union of their intent to accede to the TAC and note that ASEAN is currently working with them.

Conference on Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

30. The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. However, we are disappointed and concerned about the lack of progress in the Conference on Disarmament. We hope that the States concerned will demonstrate their commitment to the process of disarmament and exercise the political will to overcome this deadlock and reach amicable solution in the near future.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman,

31. ASEAN strongly believes that multilateralism is the most viable way to achieve our common objectives in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation. The ASEAN countries, once again reaffirm our commitment to work closely with you and member countries for the successful outcome of this endeavour.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.