



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of  
Myanmar to the United Nations**

**at the General Debate of the First Committee of the  
77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

(New York, 11 October 2022)

**Mr. Chair,**

First of all, I wish to congratulate you and all other members of the Bureau on your election, and assure you of our delegation full support.

Myanmar associates itself with the statements of NAM and ASEAN, respectively.

**Mr. Chair,**

The history tells us that the fruitful outcomes of the First Committee have played an indispensable role in building peace and security. Usually, we meet around this time in good spirits, believing that our work will drive global disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms to advance the causes of peace and security.

Our work this year, however, is overshadowed by geopolitical tensions, surely the highest since the end of the Cold War, that are intensifying as we speak. We have barely survived a pandemic. Conflagration between major powers, if not a world war, is the last thing we need. Therefore we need to now reaffirm our faith in the work of this august committee, not as an intellectual exercise, but for the sake of present and future generations.

**Mr. Chair,**

2022 has seen a very high level of nuclear threats. Vertical proliferation of nuclear-armed states and explicit threats to be the first user of nuclear weapons by a major nuclear power waging an unjustifiable war of aggression have pushed us closer to the brink of nuclear

war. The only guarantee against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons is only their total elimination in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

It is disappointing therefore that the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty failed to reach consensus on the final document. It indicates that stronger multilateral efforts and more flexibility from the state parties are needed to fulfil our commitments and obligations under the NPT treaty, to implement the pillars of non-proliferation and the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and to establish a world free of nuclear threats.

Myanmar continues to stress that the NPT remains the indispensable international agreement for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Full compliance to this treaty, especially by nuclear-armed states, is of the utmost importance for peace and security. We cannot emphasize enough that the NPT is not a license for nuclear-armed states to monopolize nuclear weapons, but it is an agreement under which states renounce weaponizing nuclear energy in exchange for nuclear-armed states committing to pursue nuclear disarmament in a serious manner.

Myanmar welcomes the successful convening of the First Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This treaty, support for which is increasing steadily, is contributing to strengthening norms against nuclear weapons. Myanmar signed this treaty in September 2018 and had planned to ratify it in 2020, but this was thwarted by the illegal coup staged by the military junta against our people, and against peace.

We also reaffirm our commitment to preserving Southeast Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and full implementations of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. Myanmar is of the view that Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones are important to strengthen global peace and security. Myanmar fully agrees that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to our collective efforts towards disarming nuclear weapons. Thus, we support to establish these zones, where it has not done so.

A total of 176 states have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). This is significant progress of which we all should be proud. However, the entry-into-force of this treaty is long overdue, and we once again urge all Annex II states that have not yet ratified the treaty to do so at their earliest opportunity.

As in previous sessions, we will be tabling the resolution titled “Nuclear Disarmament”. The provisions of this resolution are all the more pertinent this year, given the heightened nuclear risks. We thank member states for their support and co-sponsorship last year, and invite their continued support this year too.

Regarding chemical weapons, we note with satisfaction that 99% of declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been verifiably destroyed. We strongly condemn all uses of chemical weapons, and stress that the perpetrators of any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

The spectre of weaponized pathogens grew during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the potential of the Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) is hampered by its lack of verification mechanism. A non-discriminatory legally binding protocol is urgently needed to close this gap.

**Mr. Chair,**

Notwithstanding some setbacks, we have made significant achievements in curbing the proliferation of WMDs. But conventional weapons are proliferating at a brisk pace and with deadly consequences. Death and destructions caused by conventional weapons easily dwarf those caused by WMDs.

It is crucial that proper due diligence must be observed to ensure that such weapons are not transferred or sold to state or non-state actors who are willing to employ these weapons to perpetrate genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious violations of human rights.

In my country of Myanmar, many people have fallen victims to a military junta emboldened and enabled by a steady stream of weapons from countries that have ignored the pleas of Myanmar people and the international community to stop arming the inhumane military junta. The military has been using these weapons for the sole purpose of terrorizing its own people, so as to keep itself in power. It relies heavily on the air force, which is not sustainable without foreign supplies, to mount assault against innocent people.

Myanmar's crisis is still unfolding. The world has seen the brutality, inhumanity and barbarism of Myanmar's military against the people. Recently, in the afternoon of September 16, the junta's air force made a strafing run over a school in Let Yet Kone Village, Depayin Township in Sagaing Region, killing 13 people including seven children as young as 7 years old. Their body parts were shredded by junta projectiles sold to them by member states. And this is not the first, second, or third, and it will not be the last time that the military have killed unarmed civilians.

**Mr. Chair,**

I would like to stress that the lives of our people depend on your decisive actions - to stop selling the weapons and associated technologies to the Myanmar military. As long as the military retains its access to weapons and technologies, they will continue to commit their brutal and inhumane atrocities against the people, including children. They might get good terms with the inhumane military junta for these weapons, but they are making themselves co-sponsors of dreadful violence against innocent Myanmar people. I wish to conclude my statement by appealing again to those countries exporting arms, associated technologies and machine tools to the military regime to stop doing so now.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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