



MYANMAR

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Statement by

**His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin,
Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Head of the Myanmar Delegation**

**at the 79th session of the Executive Council of
the Organization for the Prohibition of the
Chemical Weapons**

The Hague, the Netherlands

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to address the 79th session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Director-General of OPCW, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for making my participation possible. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Chairperson and his bureau for their relentless efforts for the successful work of the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairman,

2. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for having accomplished the huge responsibility of destroying 90% of the world's declared stockpile of over 72,000 metric tons of chemical agents. This task, by all means, is not easy. The Nobel Peace Prize of 2013 is the well-deserved recognition for the OPCW.

3. Having said that let me start off with a brief background scenario of Myanmar. Since the new Government took office in March 2011, a series of political, economic and social reforms are being implemented towards a democratic state. As domestic legal framework is fundamental to this process, we have been working to bring it into line with the State Constitution and international norms and standards. At the same time, we are reviewing Myanmar's participation in the international legal instruments including human rights and disarmament related conventions. With the reform, numerous tasks are lying ahead of us. Naturally, we have to prioritize our missions.

4. Against this backdrop, in September 2013, Myanmar was able to sign the Protocol additional to the agreement between Myanmar and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We are now in the process of completing the final phase of domestic procedures including drafting domestic laws with a view to preparing Myanmar's enter into force of the Protocol.

5. As Nuclear Disarmament is always high on our agenda, Myanmar has been tabling a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly since 1995. The resolution pointed out several practical interim steps leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is adopted every year with the support of a great number of the UN member states particularly from the Non-Aligned Movement. Taking this opportunity, I would like to invite you to join and to continue to support the Resolution this year as we all share the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

6. Moreover, on 1 December 2014, Myanmar deposited the Instrument of Ratification to the Biological Weapons Convention BWC. Now that we have become a State Party to the BWC, we will continue our efforts to establish appropriate legal frameworks, regulations and practices in line with the provisions of the Convention, including the establishment of a national authority.

7. Making progress on political and socio-economic life of our people, and being able to move the disarmament agenda of Myanmar forward is the manifestation of the success of Myanmar's reform process.

8. Allow me to turn to our efforts to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention. At the preparatory phase, a series of awareness and technical workshops, trainings and study tours have been organized for all stakeholders in the country. As understanding on the Treaty and its implementation processes are prerequisite for our ratification. In this regard, I would like to place on record our appreciations and thanks to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and its all staff for providing necessary help to Myanmar.

9. When all stakeholders are comfortable and prepared for the technical requirements of implementation process, we turn our efforts to domestic parliamentary requirements. Given the importance of the Treaty and our preparations done, the Pyi Daungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) unanimously approved the Government's proposal to ratify the CWC.

10. It took us over 20 years to ratify the treaty since we signed it on January 14, 1993, the day after the treaty was opened for signature. It has been the domestic circumstances and capacity constraint which have prevented Myanmar for an earlier ratification.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Today, I am pleased to announce that Myanmar has deposited the instrument of ratification to the CWC with its depository in New York, 10 hours ago, on 8 July 2015.

12. Myanmar is proud to become a State Party to the CWC.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Myanmar is joining the CWC family as Non-possessor State. Yet, Myanmar will need continued assistance from the OPCW and other international partners to fully implement our obligations under the treaty.

14. Let me conclude by joining the Director-General in saying that Myanmar will be working together for a World Free of Chemical Weapons, and beyond.

I thank you.
