



OPCW

Review Conference

Fourth Session
21 – 30 November 2018

RC-4/NAT.45
23 November 2018
ENGLISH only

MYANMAR

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KYAW MOE TUN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MYANMAR TO THE OPCW AT THE FOURTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW
THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Delegation of Myanmar, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you, Ambassador Agustín Vázquez Gómez, on your election as Chairperson of this important Fourth Review Conference.

I am convinced that, under your able leadership and wisdom, this Review Conference will be successful. I would like to assure you of our delegation's full cooperation in discharging your responsibility.

I also wish to thank Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for his tireless efforts and diplomatic skills for the preparation of the Fourth Review Conference.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Fernando Arias for his appointment as Director-General of the OPCW, and also thank him for the comprehensive report to the Conference.

The delegation of Myanmar aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Bolivian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Today, we are witnessing that global peace and security are seriously challenged by various threats. The existence and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security as well as to the mankind. The number of armed conflict has increased. Tensions are rising among states. In order to respond these challenges, we must redouble our efforts for making tangible progress in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. We believe that heightened tensions and dangers can be resolved through constructive political dialogue, negotiations and engagement.



The convening of the Fourth Review Conference is timely. Since the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (“the Convention”), with the vision of “a world free of chemical weapons”, entered into force in 1997, significant achievements have been made on universalisation and destruction of declared chemical weapons under the able guidance of the Organisation of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Our march towards universalisation of the Convention continues to yield results. Since the last Review Conference, five additional States including Myanmar have joined the Convention. With a view to achieving full universality, we urge the remaining countries that have not ratified the Convention yet to do so.

The destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is a fundamental objective of the OPCW. Approximately 96% of all declared chemical weapons have been successfully destroyed under the verification of the OPCW. We hope that progress continues to be made on the destruction of the remaining stockpiles. As we have to reach our common objective of a world free of chemical weapons, the destruction obligation must be fulfilled within the time limits established for each possessor state. In this connection, Myanmar welcomes the completion of destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles, chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs), abandoned chemical weapons and old chemical weapons made by the relevant possessor State Parties.

While destroying the chemical weapons stockpiles and other related facilities, we cannot ignore to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. The States Parties must undertake all possible efforts to ensure full implementation of all provisions of the Convention, particularly in the spirit of reinforcing international peace and security and creating a world free of chemical weapons.

Myanmar condemns the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons at anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances. It is contrary to the provisions of the Convention and violation of international law. On addressing the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-state actors and preventing from potential threats of chemical terrorism, we need to intensify our efforts and to further strengthen cooperation with relevant international organisations and bodies.

As the OPCW plays an important role in promoting economic and technological progress in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes, Myanmar hopes that the Review Conference, by adopting concrete measures, will succeed in reinforcing the implementation of Article XI of the Convention. We should continue and further enhance international cooperation in the field of chemical activities in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and to the benefit of sustainable development for mankind.

On its part, Myanmar is committed to promote global peace and security and to protect from the menace of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. Safety of people and preservation of environment are Myanmar's top priorities.

Universal and full implementation of Article VII is fundamental to the effective functioning of the Convention. The National Authority of Myanmar is in the process of drafting relevant

national legislations related to the Convention. Moreover, we are also reviewing the existing laws relating to chemicals management. We will continue to work closely with the OPCW Technical Secretariat for strengthening national implementation measures.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the Director-General and members of the OPCW Technical Secretariat for their continued assistance extended to Myanmar.

Myanmar continues to believe that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement and a most successful disarmament treaty eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under effective international control.

The international system is becoming more multipolar. The United Nations Secretary-General pointed out in his agenda for disarmament: Securing our common future that “Consensus has become more elusive, leading to increasing majoritarianism to overcome persistent paralysis”.

This is critical juncture to renew the effective multilateralism where consensus plays an important role. Long and vital tradition of consensus in decision making of the Convention should be preserved. The challenges facing here at the OPCW are serious concerns to all us for materialising the noble vision of a world free of chemical weapons.

Therefore, the restoration of the spirit of consensus in the OPCW is vital for the successful implementation of the Convention. Together, we can narrow the gaps for achieving our shared goal of general and complete elimination of chemical weapons. Let’s take this Review Conference as an opportunity for all state parties to reach common understanding to overcome the challenges we face.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, I would like to share the United Nations Secretary-General’s view that “Disarmament to save humanity” and “Disarmament that save lives”. So let’s work together for the benefit of our current and future generations.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Review Conference and be published on the website and extranet of the OPCW.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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