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**MYANMAR**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KYAW MOE TUN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF  
MYANMAR TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, on your election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that under your able leadership and wisdom, this Twenty-Fourth Session will produce fruitful outcomes. I would like to assure you of our delegation's full cooperation and support in this regard.

We also would like to express our appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties, His Excellency Ambassador Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea, for his outstanding leadership during the Twenty-Third Session.

Myanmar aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of Non-Alignment Movement of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Myanmar welcomes the comprehensive report by the Director-General of OPCW. We commend the Director-General and his team for their hard work and concerted efforts for the successful work of the OPCW.

The chemical weapons should no longer exist in today's world, and it has an indiscriminate effect on human beings and the natural environment. Today, 22 years have passed since the establishment of the OPCW with the main goal to eliminate the possibility of use of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and to create a world free of chemical weapons. As we look back to the history, the aim of universalisation has almost been achieved with the 193 States Parties to the Convention. For all of us to achieve the goal of universalisation, Myanmar urges those remaining States not yet Party to join the Convention at the earliest possible time.

Myanmar welcomes the efforts of OPCW and Member States in the destruction over 97% of declared stockpiles. No doubt, such an accomplishment has been a significant achievement in



making our world a safer place. However, we need to continue our endeavour to reach our main goal of the total destruction of all chemical weapons and prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to promote peaceful uses of chemicals. 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 frame established for each possessor State. In this connection, Myanmar welcomes the completion of the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles, chemical weapons production facilities, abandoned chemical weapons and old chemical weapons made by the relevant possessor States Parties.

To date, around the world, we have witnessed the growing tensions, challenges and threats by multiple stakeholders. Terrorism and the use of chemical weapons in terrorist acts remain a source of great concern to all of us. Following those circumstances, even the existence and proliferation of chemical weapons and its facilities pose a serious threat to the peace and security of the global population.

The possible sufferings and humanitarian consequences would be unimaginable, once the chemical weapons have fallen into the hands of terrorists. In view of the possibility of those risks and threats, it is now even more important to effectively and efficiently implement the Convention than before. We would like to stress that the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is unacceptable and needs to be prevented by working together.

In this regard, Myanmar welcomes all efforts made by the OPCW and States Parties to counter the threat posed by non-State actors.

While we once again urge the States not Party to join the Convention, we would like to call upon the fellow Member States of the Convention to strictly abide by the provisions of the Convention and implement them steadfastly. We would like to reiterate that violating the provisions of the Convention for any reason is unacceptable. However, politicisation and accusations to Member States based on unreliable sources should be avoided.

In addition to eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence, it is an undeniable fact that the peaceful use of chemicals, especially in economic and technology development, largely contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Thus, in order to ensure the full implementation by all States Parties under the Convention, capacity building must remain as a key element in the Organisation's activities and should be well strengthened. Myanmar appreciates the OPCW for its continued assistance in capacity building to the developing countries including Myanmar.

In its statement, the delegation of the United States of America made reference to my country. In this regard, I would like to make following points: First, Myanmar as a responsible State Party is committed to the earnest implementation of the Convention and strictly adheres to the provisions of the Convention. Second, Myanmar never has an ambition to be a possessor of chemical weapons. Third, Myanmar always puts its utmost efforts for taking measures to be in compliance with the Convention. Fourth, Myanmar is always willing and ready to address any concern raised in this regard in a constructive manner and in accordance with the Convention. Fifth, the Myanmar Government makes sure that coordination among the relevant agencies is led by the National Authority put in place for taking necessary measures accordingly.

Finally, I would like to stress that Myanmar is always ready to work with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and fellow States Parties to achieve the goal of a world free of chemical weapons and to be in conformity with the Convention's provisions.

Mr Chairman, I would like to conclude my statement by reaffirming Myanmar's readiness to work with all relevant parties to achieve our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons and wishing the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties a successful conclusion.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the meeting and be posted on the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you.

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