



MYANMAR

**Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Soe Lynn Han
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the OPCW at the Ninety-Third Session of the Executive Council
(The Hague, 11 March 2020)**

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

Good morning!

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, His Excellency Ambassador Andrea Perugini, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OPCW, in person on your role as the Chairperson of the Executive Council and for your great leadership in steering this very important body of the OPCW.

I would like to inform the meeting that I have presented my credentials as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the OPCW, to His Excellency Mr. Fernando Arias, Director General of the OPCW last Thursday on 5 March 2020.

This is the first formal meeting I attend in my capacity as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the OPCW. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you in this Executive Council, the OPCW Secretariat and all responsible personnel for giving us this learning opportunity.

Moving onto the subject, please allow me to be brief for the interest of time.

Mr. Chairman,

Today the world is undergoing a very chaotic era with unprecedented epidemics, disasters, challenges and threats, both natural and man-made ones. I believe there must be very few countries not impacted by these things.

One of the biggest threats to the world's peace, security and prosperity, as you all know, has been chemical weapons. Obviously, while this issue cannot be tackled by only one hand, we have proved that we can achieve significant success in eliminating these deadly weapons by our joined hands. In fact, this reflects the very aim of our esteemed Organization: "working together for a world free of chemical weapons."

Mr. Chairman,

Multilateralism has always been a cornerstone of Myanmar's relations and cooperation with the international community. Especially, Myanmar has been an important part of global disarmament regimes, with its relentless efforts and unwavering commitment. We joined the CWC family as a non-possessor state since our ratification on 8 July 2015. It has been over four years since Myanmar became a State Party to the Convention. Over this period of time, we are trying our best to fully implement the Convention in a step-by-step approach.

Myanmar, as a responsible State Party, has dedicated herself to the earnest implementation of the CWC and strict adherence to the provisions of the Convention. We submitted our Initial Declaration to the OPCW on 23 September 2015. Recently, Myanmar has established the CWC National Authority on 20 February 2018.

This national body is coordinating with relevant implementation agencies with the aim to fully implement the Convention at the national level. Moreover, we have written a road map towards the enactment of Myanmar's CWC Law in line with our obligations to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The US Delegation, in its statement at the CSP 24 in last November and yesterday at the EC 93 meeting, made reference to Myanmar. We took it seriously. Myanmar is always ready to address any concern raised in this regard in a constructive technical manner in accordance with the Convention.

That is why in late February this year, we held a bilateral consultation between the authorities concerned of our two countries. We will continue this ongoing discussion in a friendly and constructive manner.

Here in this statement, I would like to stress Myanmar's genuine intention with regard to chemical weapons. Myanmar has become a State Party to the Convention as it firmly believes in the mission of the OPCW and would like to join other State Parties in building the world a peaceful home to the whole humankind.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to apprise the Meeting of Myanmar's recent developments.

We are a forward-looking democracy in transition.

We fully understand that it is phenomenal for an emerging democracy to face multi-dimensional political and socioeconomic challenges. Therefore, we are exploring and pursuing every possible way to strengthen our democratic foundations.

Allow me to reiterate our consistence and commitment to full implementation of the convention. To do so, we need continued assistance from the OPCW and other international partners. We have stated that in our ratification statement at the EC 79 in July 2015.

That is why, we want not to be viewed or termed as a State Party which does not comply with the Convention. We, as a State Party with its ardent efforts to fully implement the Convention, need to be empowered to do so. We will never deviate from our common goal.

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed my honour and pleasure for having informal discussions with the OPCW since the day of my credentials presentation.

I will seek an opportunity to continue our discussion in the very near future with the aim to request detailed technical advice and assistance from the OPCW as necessary.

Talking about skills and capacity in this regard, I would like to place an emphasis on the need for Myanmar and other developing countries to promote awareness of the impacts of chemical weapons and the work of the OPCW, to train responsible personnel to be skilful and resourceful implementers of the Convention.

In this connection, I hope the OPCW ChemTech Centre will be the main instrument for equipping all State Parties of the Convention, especially the countries like Myanmar, with necessary knowledge and skills in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

All in all, we cannot deny the fact that the future world awaits us with both opportunities and challenges. We have no other option but to strengthen our existing commitment and cooperation to make chemistry an opportunity for, not a threat to, global peace and prosperity.

Myanmar, in any given time and circumstance of a situation, will never accept the use and threat of chemical weapons by any hand, state or non-state ones.

Please allow me to conclude by reiterating that Myanmar will work together with the OPCW and all international partners in preventing and eliminating chemical weapons, and implementing the Convention in a responsible manner.

I request that this statement be designated an official document of the Executive Council Meeting and that it be posted on the OPCW External server and the public website.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
