



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twentieth Session
30 November – 4 December 2015

C-20/NAT.7
1 December 2015
ENGLISH only

MYANMAR

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SAN LWIN
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AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,

It is a great honour for me to represent my country, Myanmar as a State Party, at this session.

At the outset, my delegation would like to extend our congratulations to you, on your election as the Chairperson of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are confident that, under your able guidance and leadership, this conference will achieve fruitful outcomes.

Let me also join the other speakers in extending my deep appreciation to your predecessor, Ms Vesela Mrđen Korać, Ambassador of Croatia, for her outstanding work during the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat not only for the comprehensive report delivered at this session but for their steadfast dedication and commitment to the work of the Organisation as well.

My country sees the Chemical Weapons Convention as a unique disarmament instrument that serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

Against this backdrop, Myanmar signed the Chemical Weapons Convention on 14 January 1993, the day after its opening for signature. Despite this, capacity constraints have prevented us from making an early ratification. It took us over two decades to ratify the Convention. But, finally, Myanmar was able to deposit its instrument of ratification to the United Nations Secretary-General on 8 July 2015, and the Convention entered into force for Myanmar on 7 August 2015, making Myanmar the 191th State Party to the Convention.

In this regard, on behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their kind assistance and cooperation extended to Myanmar during the ratification process. Our thanks also go to the States Parties, who have provided assistance to Myanmar in familiarising with the key-issues under the Convention, and have also shared their expertise and experiences under this framework.



We realise that becoming a State Party to the Convention is not the end in itself. Rather, it is just like embarking on new journey – the journey of the extensive cooperation and collaboration with other States Parties and OPCW in our collective endeavour to safeguard our world from the danger of chemical weapons.

In keeping with the spirit of full and effective implementation of the Convention, we will continue our implementation measures such as enhancing our efforts to establish a national legislation and processes in line with the provisions of the Convention and best international practices.

I would now like to give updates on the efforts of Myanmar in the framework of the Convention. To ensure the safety standards of chemical industries in Myanmar, the Government enacted the Prevention of Hazards from Chemical and Related Substances Law in August 2013. A Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Country Team was established in June 2013. Myanmar has also been hosting seminars and workshops, in cooperation with OPCW, UNICRI and EU.

Furthermore, the National Authority was formed in August of this year for the effective implementation of the Convention, and for taking the managerial role at the national level to bring together the domestic industries and all stakeholders on board.

Myanmar is closely and actively engaging with the OPCW in its activities. The OPCW has a major role in helping its Member States in the facilitation of exchange of technologies, expertise, scientific, and technological information. In this context, we are looking forward to working closely with the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

My delegation is of the view that cooperation among the National Authorities should be further enhanced. Networking and sharing best practices among the National Authorities will enable them to more effectively monitor and control the scheduled chemicals. This kind of cooperation will provide great benefits to many States Parties, especially the developing countries. In this regard, we commend the OPCW's continued efforts in organising capacity-building activities under its international cooperation programmes.

As a State Party to the Convention, Myanmar supports the complete destruction and elimination of chemical weapons. We attach utmost importance to its success and full and effective implementation. Myanmar will remain committed in the support of international efforts in achieving the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons worldwide.

All States Parties have the obligation to cooperate among themselves and with the OPCW in order to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention. On its part, Myanmar will cooperate with all States Parties and render its full support to the work of OPCW in the effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

Myanmar is confident that, with the full cooperation of all Member States and the tireless efforts of the Technical Secretariat, we can together achieve the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. In conclusion, while reaffirming Myanmar's strong commitment to the Convention, I wish to reiterate my delegation's readiness to participate constructively in the deliberations of this conference.