

Statement by Myanmar
at the 13th Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their
Destruction
Agenda (11) (h) : Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention -
Cooperation and assistance
(5 December 2013)

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for my delegation to participate as an observer in this meeting. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of Office as the President of the 13 MSP. Our tribute also goes to other members of the bureau. We are confident that under your able leadership, the meeting will be a success.

Mr. President,

Myanmar has been undergoing unprecedented, wide-ranging political and economic reforms since March 2011. The Government is dedicated to establishing peace, stability and rule of law and to advancing socio-economic development of the people of Myanmar. We can now witness the tangible progress in our national reconciliation endeavours. The Government's peace overtures have led to the signing of ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups for the first time in over 60 years. We are hopeful of signing a nation-wide ceasefire agreement in Nay Pyi Taw soon.

While focusing its attention on realizing these goals of reforms, Myanmar is simultaneously reviewing its domestic legislations that are not in line with international norms and practices. We are also taking progressive steps to further enhance our status in connection with a number of disarmament-related conventions.

Myanmar signed the Additional Protocol for the IAEA Safeguards Agreement on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on 17 September 2013. Currently we are undergoing a process for implementing the protocol. The process includes, among others, drafting a domestic law, setting up a national authority for implementation of the protocol, and establishing a State System of Accounting and Control. Upon completion of this process, we will inform the IAEA for the entry into force of the Additional Protocol for Myanmar.

Mr. President,

Landmines and cluster munitions leave an adverse humanitarian impact in their aftermath. Underscoring the importance of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), Myanmar, together with other members of ASEAN, have concluded its TOR.

The Myanmar Mine Action Centre was established under the Myanmar Peace Centre which is headed by Union Minister U Aung Min of the President's Office. The Myanmar Mine Action Centre is designed as a specialized project for humanitarian demining under the peace process.

Furthermore, the Mine Risk Education Inter-Agency Working Group (MREIAWG), comprising 27 representatives from the relevant Ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, was formed on 27 April 2012. Since its inception, a number of workshops on Mine Risk Education were held in Nay Pyi Taw and the relevant States and Division in Myanmar, with the collaboration of the UN agencies and NGOs. Myanmar is now conducting Mine Risk Education activities and Mine Victims Assistance in risk-prone areas. Myanmar is committed to increasing international cooperation and assistance for mine clearance and rehabilitation of mine-victims.

We were pleased to welcome the delegations of ICBL and Geneva Call this year in Myanmar, respectively.

Mr. President,

Myanmar attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. This is attested to by her accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability on 7 December 2011. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is in the process of drafting the law on rights of persons with disability as well as a national-level project for rights of persons with disability (2014-2015). In her address on the occasion of honouring the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2013 in Myanmar, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar called on the participants to further cooperate and collaborate to break barriers and open wider doors to enable all persons with disabilities to participate in building a new developed nation.

Mr. President,

One of the basic principles enshrined in our foreign policy is to actively contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. This policy consistently supports disarmament and opposes arms race, production and sales.

We pay our attention to the Convention on the Prohibition of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Needless to say, our participation as an observer in this meeting clearly reflects our keen interest in the present and future work of the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.
