



MYANMAR

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Statement by

His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin,

Minister for Foreign Affairs

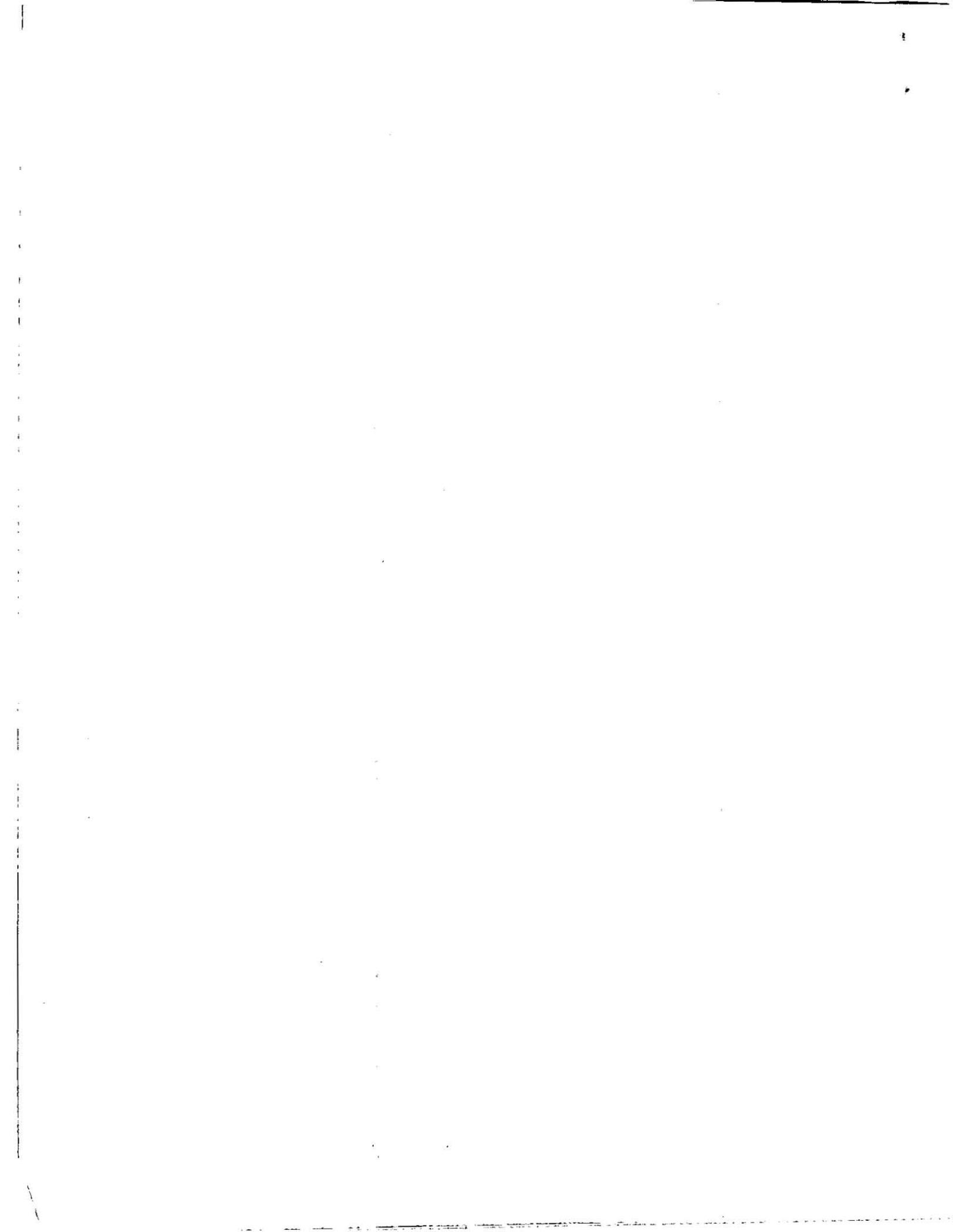
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

on behalf of the ASEAN Member States

at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly

on Nuclear Disarmament

26 September 2013



**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. I have the pleasure and honour to deliver a statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
2. We congratulate you and your predecessor for your contribution towards the holding of the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament. Our appreciations also go to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his important statement.
3. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
4. We are convinced that the continued existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all lives on earth. The only defense against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
5. We therefore urge, among others, the Nuclear-Weapon States to cease immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons with a view to taking measures leading to their total elimination within a specified framework of time.
6. ASEAN also reiterates its call for the full implementation of the Action plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. President,

7. While re-emphasizing the importance of preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, we will continue to engage and encourage the Nuclear-Weapons States to accede, at the earliest, to the Protocol of the Bangkok Treaty, without reservations.
8. We also underscore the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones where they do not exist, especially in the Middle East, and express our continued support to the convening of the Conference, at the earliest, on the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.
9. ASEAN also continues to support the CTBT, and reiterates its call on all States, in particular those whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty's entry into force, to sign and ratify the CTBT at an early date.

Mr. President,

10. ASEAN reaffirms the crucial role of the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and invites all CD Members to exert maximum political will to overcome the current impasse.

11. We welcome the recent decision by the CD to establish an Informal Working Group to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive overtime in implementation. We also hope that it will be able to execute its mandate successfully.

12. Finally, ASEAN hopes that this historic meeting will contribute positively towards realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I thank you, Mr. President.