



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic
of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations,
at the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons of the First Committee
at the Eightieth Session of the UN General Assembly
(New York, 24 October 2025)**

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements of ASEAN and NAM.

The role of conventional weapons in inflicting immense suffering on civilians cannot be overstated. Conventional weapons and their acquisition often drive armed conflict, prolong more violence against civilians and destroy the fabric of peaceful societies.

In fact, small arms, light weapons and their ammunition are the leading cause of violent deaths globally in conflict and non-conflict settings.

Against this backdrop, Myanmar welcomes the consensual adoption of the outcome document by the Fourth UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the PoA to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar acknowledges the sovereign rights of States to manufacture, acquire, export and import conventional weapons for their self-defence.

However, we are of the view that international humanitarian law and international human rights law should always be taken sincerely into account in their acquisition.

In the same vein, a comprehensive assessment by Member States is warranted to determine whether their arms export serves the purpose of legitimate self-defence or the purpose of perpetuating more atrocities against civilians.

Unfortunately, in my country, Myanmar, conventional weapons, from both domestic and international sources, only serve the purpose of terrorizing and repressing the civilian population into submission, especially after the illegal coup. In this regard, I wish to focus on the following two aspects of these weapons of terror.

First, domestic production - the entire arms manufacturing sector in Myanmar has been administered by the military junta since its inception. Even under the tenure of the elected civilian government, the military continued to monopolize this enterprise and refuse any civilian oversight of it.

Under the so-called directorate of defense industries, the military produces small arms, light weapons, artillery ammunition, antipersonnel landmines, armed drones, cluster munitions among others. Their use has been exclusively reserved for targeted attacks against fellow citizens, including ethnic minorities.

Second, international supplies - their domestic production of weapons of terror is supplemented by extended imports of raw materials, arms, munitions and associated technologies from some Member States to the military.

From February 2021 to May 2023 alone, this import was worth at least 1 billion US dollars.

Since the military coup, these domestic and international weapons of terror have contributed to the killings of nearly 7,400 people in Myanmar.

People of Myanmar perceive these acts of arms transfer as a clear and willful endorsement of their killings by the military junta. These perceptions transcend generations, and will erode their trust in those Member States in the long run.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of Myanmar, I appeal to the international community to enforce a global arms embargo against the military junta, and prevent the further flow of jet fuel, other dual-use items and related technologies to the junta to save their lives.

Mr. Chair,

I wish to conclude by echoing the report of the OHCHR (A/HRC/58/41) that “arms transfers are not a human rights-free zone.”

On this note, the planned sham election by the junta will only give the military an open license to commit more atrocities and human rights violations via these weapons of terror. Therefore, I urge the international community to categorically reject this deceitful process for the sake of protection of civilians.

I thank you.
