



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 Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
of the First Committee
at the Eightieth Session of the UN General Assembly
(New York, 22 October 2025)**

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements of ASEAN and NAM.

Mr. Chair,

Myanmar reaffirms our commitment to uphold norms against biological and chemical weapons, and underscores the importance of universalizing the BWC and the CWC.

The lack of a verification mechanism poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the BWC. Myanmar, therefore, welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Working Group in strengthening the BWC by addressing structural and operational gaps, including verification, compliance and institutional mechanisms.

Mr. Chair,

We commend the work of the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat in achieving the complete and verified destruction of all declared chemical weapons.

Despite this progress, concerns about the use of chemical weapons in many parts of the world over the past years still persist.

Myanmar strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstances. Those responsible for their use must be held to account.

Mr. Chair,

Many chemicals under the scope of the CWC definition of chemical weapons have peaceful uses. In our view, the “dual-use” or “multiple-use” nature of chemicals has created loopholes, bound to be exploited by bad actors and dictators in conflict settings.

Unfortunately, in my country, Myanmar, dual-use, industrial chemicals have been readily misused by the military junta, especially after the illegal military coup. Against this backdrop, I wish to stress the urgency of monitoring developments in Myanmar and taking preemptive measures against the junta based on the following reasons:

First, the longstanding lack of transparency by the military junta over its past chemical weapons programme – the military was reportedly operating a chemical weapon production facility in southern-central Myanmar back in the 1980s, and constructing another one in central Myanmar in 2009. The former produced sulfur mustards - an Annex I chemical.

However, this programme under its supervision was never declared by the military, putting Myanmar in violation of its CWC obligations. In the absence of a verified destruction, the possession of a chemical weapons stockpile by the military remains open to question.

Second, growing evidence of the use of chemical agents by the military – suspected use of chemical agents by the military was sporadically reported even before the coup. Since then, multiple reports on their use by the military have emerged, including high-content tear gas, white phosphorus and aluminum phosphide in areas under the control of revolutionary forces.

Respiratory distress, rapid necrosis and nausea are some of the symptoms documented in the aftermath of their aerial dispersal.

Third and last, the inherent nature of the military junta – opacity, blatant denial of their atrocities, a mockery of international law and uncompromising attitudes are all defining characteristics of the military junta.

We believe that any pending issue on non-compliance with the CWC can only be resolved under the civilian oversight of the military.

On this note, the planned sham election by the military junta will only give the military an open license to commit more atrocities with impunity, including the use of chemical agents against civilians. I urge the international community to reject this deceitful process.

Taking this opportunity, I appeal to all Member States to cut the flow of arms, weapons, jet fuel, other dual-use items and related technologies to the military junta.

I thank you.
