Statement

by

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Adviser to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

at the First Committee Thematic Debate on

Regional Disarmament and Security

New York

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Statement by Ms. Sann Thit Yee, Adviser to the Delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the First Committee Thematic Debate on Regional Disarmament and Security (New York, 27 October 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, my delegation would like to thank the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), its Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB) and the three United Nations Regional Centres for their efforts towards global disarmament, international peace and security. And, we would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the panelists from the three Regional Centres for their comprehensive presentations.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Despite the fact that different regions have different priorities and approaches, the three United Nations Regional Centres for peace and disarmament have been effective connectors between international policy makers and practitioners at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

3. The Regional Centres play an important role not only in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control measures at the regional level but also in disseminating and sharing concepts, ideas and best practices through the medium of national and regional disarmament forums.

4. The Regional Centres also contribute to the strengthening of durable peace and sustainable development in the regions concerned. We are glad to observe that Member States, the Office of Disarmament Affairs and the donor community are enabling the Regional Centres to make community-based approaches while maintaining their current activities in the respective regions.

5. Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for organizing a workshop in Myanmar on building the national capacity to combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The workshop took place in Nay Pyi Taw this year, and was a success.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The Disarmament Fellowship Programme organized annually by the Office of Disarmament Affairs is significantly benefitting the developing countries in capacity
building. Speaking from my own experience as a disarmament fellow in 2013, this program is very beneficial for us young diplomats, who are embarking on a life-long career to work, with devotion and dedication, for the cause of disarmament. We believe that the programme should continue and be expanded, both vertically and horizontally, for the benefit of diplomats and future decision makers on the issues and institutions involved in non-proliferation, disarmament and international security. My country is looking forward to getting an opportunity to send more participants in the programme.

Mr. Chairman,

7. As we all are aware, the Regional Centres' activities have to rely on extra-budgetary voluntary contributions by donors. The work at the Centres is demand-driven and conducted at the request of member states.

8. The Centres, therefore, need sustained voluntary budgetary contributions from Member States of the United Nations, other interested organizations and individuals to meet the staffing requirements and the cost for basic administration and their missions. Only when Member States and other donors provide additional and voluntary funding, would the Regional Centres be able to sustain their activities to the full extent. In this regard, it is very appropriate for the Secretary-General, in his reports on the regional disarmament centres, has called upon countries in the respective regions and beyond to make voluntary contributions to the Centres to ensure the sustainability of their activities and operations and to enable them to fulfill the mandates entrusted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We firmly believe that maintaining and revitalizing the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute in no small measures to the activities of the United Nations in promoting stability and security of member states.

10. I wish to conclude by reiterating Myanmar’s continued support to the work of the all regional centres, particularly, to the Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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