

Press Release

Myanmar ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin addressed the 79th session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons - OPCW held in The Hague, the Netherlands on July 9, 2015.

In his address, the Union Minister congratulated the Organization for having destroyed 90 per cent of the world's declared Chemical Weapons stockpiles and its well-deserved 2013 Noble Peace Prize. Turning to Myanmar's reform efforts, he said that since taking the state responsibility in March 2011, the Government has been undertaking political and socio-economic reforms. He also said that domestic legal framework was reviewed to bring it into line with State Constitution and international norms and efforts were made to become a state party to human rights and disarmament instruments. As a result, Myanmar signed a Protocol Additional with International Atomic Energy for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Since 1995, a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament has been tabled and adopted annually at the United Nations General Assembly. He went on to say that Myanmar ratified the Biological Weapons Convention on December 1, 2014. As a manifestation of success in Myanmar's reform, progress has been achieved in the political and socio-economic life of the people as well as disarmament issues.

He also mentioned that in connection with the Chemical Weapons Convention-CWC, a series of workshops on awareness-raising and technical workshops on all stakeholders to require comprehensive understanding of the implementation processes were conducted in Myanmar in preparation for ratifying the Convention and that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has unanimously approved for the ratification of the Convention. He added that Myanmar signed the CWC on January 14, 1993, the day after its opening for signature, however, it took time for Myanmar to ratify it because of domestic priorities and capacity constraint. In concluding, he announced that Myanmar has deposited the instrument of ratification on July 8, 2015 in New York and proud to becoming a State Party to it

and also that Myanmar will join hands in making the world free of chemical weapons.

The treaty will enter into force for Myanmar after 30 days of depositing its instrument of ratification.

By ratifying the treaty, Myanmar joins the mainstream of international standards, commits to the principles and ideals of disarmament and enhances confidence-building among nations. Such actions will further project the image of the country and will be able to stand tall.

From security perspective, Myanmar will receive assistance from state parties if it is attacked by the Chemical Weapons. More opportunities will be secured in import, transfer of chemicals and instruments and exchange of technical information. There will be more job opportunities for Myanmar nationals in the Organization.

As of July 9, 2015, a total of 190 nations have joined the Convention as State Parties.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Nav Pyi Taw.

Dated. 9 July 2015.