

**Presentation by U Ba Hla Aye,
member of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, in
Session: 2 “Realizing Security, Peace, Denuclearization,
Reunification and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula” of the
Roundtable on the Korean Peninsula
(13 December 2018, Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon)**

Distinguished Participants, ladies and Gentlemen,
Mingalabar to you all!

I am honoured to be given this opportunity to make a presentation in this very important roundtable. I would like to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency U Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, for giving me this opportunity.

Distinguished Participants, ladies and Gentlemen,

Relentless efforts have been made to change the climate of the Korean Peninsula from hostile to enduring peaceful environment. I would like to say that such endeavour has achieved positive results to a significant extent, and I would like to give my views in this connection.

The wisdom and goodwill of the three statesmen—President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea, Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and President Donald Trump of the United States of America—have changed the climate of the Korean Peninsula dramatically and constructively.

The DPRK’s suspension on 21 April of its nuclear and ballistic missile tests, which the ROK and the USA consider most alarming activities, created an enabling environment for the subsequent improvement of the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Then, inter-Korean Summit between President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un took place on 27 April, first meeting of the leaders of the two Koreas in the last 10 years. With the Panmunjeom Declaration, the two leaders agreed to work together on ending the Korean War and the Korean conflict, beginning a new era of peace and sharing commitments in ending divisions and confrontation by approaching a new era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity and improvements to inter-Korean relations. The second DPRK-ROK Summit took place a month later on 26 May. President Moon Jae-in stated in a public address later that he and DPRK leader had agreed to meet again at "anytime and anyplace" without any formality and that the DPRK leader once again pledged to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula in accordance with the Panmunjeom Declaration.

Then, DPRK Chairman Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump met for the first time in June in Singapore. President Moon Jae-in played a very important role in making this historic Summit possible. The Summit produced a Joint Statement in which (Q) "President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK, and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."(UQ) After the Summit, President Trump suspended ROK-USA joint military exercises.

The nuclear and missile tests by the DPRK and the ROK-USA joint military exercises were the two most alarming activities that could ignite war between the two Koreas initially and bring in their respective friends

consequently. The suspension of these activities significantly helped relieve the tension between the two sides.

The world could sigh a breath of relief then. The peoples of the two Koreas, and the neighbourhood also, could sleep well and dream for peace on the Korean Peninsula for the first time in 65 years after the 1950-53 Korean War.

Encouraged by these significant developments, the peoples of the two Koreas and the world as a whole have been hoping to see further steps that would move the Korean Peninsula closer towards the denuclearized and peaceful Korean Peninsula. However, further steps have not been in sight at the moment.

Distinguished Participants, ladies and Gentlemen,

The three leaders' wisdom to break themselves free from the positions of their respective predecessors and to give it a try is a concrete testimony of the goodwill and political will they all have for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

While there have been concerns that the implementation of the DPRK-USA Summit Joint Statement might not make progress, we still see light at the end of the tunnel. US President Donald Trump told reporters on December 1st on his way back from Argentina after the G20 Summit that he hoped to organize a second summit with DPRK leader Kim Jong Un early next year. I do not know when will the next summit take place.

However, I earnestly hope that the goodwill and political will that have broken the ice between the DPRK and US leaders will be resolutely maintained and that the two statesmen will take further steps in the implementation of their

Summit Joint Statement which they have whole-heartedly agreed upon. I wish that their proven wisdom will contribute to overcoming whatever differences between them.

Distinguished Participants, ladies and Gentlemen,

In the opening session this morning, the representatives from the two Koreas shared with us their respective country's inter-Korean policy. The common goal of both Koreas is a nuclear-free, peaceful and prosperous and eventually unified Korean Peninsula. Undoubtedly, the leaders and peoples of both Koreas have unreserved political will for that goal.

The speakers in Session 1 talked about recent developments in the Korean Peninsula, inter alia, emphasizing the three DPRK-ROK Summits and the subsequent constructive engagements between the two countries. The Summits between Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae-in and the ongoing resultant cooperation between the two countries are very encouraging.

Amicable relationship between them is a prerequisite to the goal of a nuclear-free, unified, peaceful and prosperous Korean Peninsula. The two Koreas are already on the track moving in that direction. As their bilateral relations get better and better, the concerns which their respective friends have for them will become less and less.

It is unquestionable that the two Koreas only are masters of the fate of the Korean Peninsula and their peoples.

I earnestly hope that the two Koreas will maintain the momentum of ongoing bilateral engagements looking forward to the day when their respective friends have no reason anymore to concern themselves about them and

eventually leave the Korean Peninsula to them alone for good. The two Koreas shall not fail in this endeavour, not just for the Korean Peninsula. Your success will contribute to peace in the region as well as to the world at large. It will be very noble of you to achieve as such.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.