

**Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao**  
**Permanent Representative of India to the CD**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**

Mr President,

It was not the intention of my delegation to speak in the Plenary but we have been compelled to seek the floor in view of the gratuitous and unfounded remarks made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan. It would have been better if Pakistan had refrained from making comments on issues that are extraneous to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. The CD is not the forum to address bilateral or regional issues as its main mandate is to focus on agreements of global applicability. As we had made clear in the UNGA, India is opposed to consideration of regional security issues in the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr President,

India's impeccable non-proliferation record is widely recognized; as such I do not need to respond to the baseless remarks in that Statement. At a time when there are important tasks ahead for this Conference, the Statement can only be viewed as unhelpful. We urge the Pakistani delegation to avoid bringing up extraneous issues designed to create obstacles in the path of the Conference on Disarmament getting down to serious and substantive work. In fact, we would like to urge Pakistan to live up to its commitment of acting with responsibility and to demonstrate that commitment by rejoining consensus on the CD's Programme of Work that would allow the commencement of substantive work at an early date, including the negotiation of an FMCT in the CD, which has been the subject of a consensus resolution in the UN General Assembly in December 2009. We hope that the CD will get down to substantive work at the earliest.

Thank you.