

Statement by PR in CD plenary meeting on 23rd March 1995

Madam President,

Since this is the first time I take the floor under your Presidency, I would, at the outset, like to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency. I pledge the support of my delegation for success in all your endeavours. I would also like to avail of this opportunity to thank your predecessor Ambassador Vattani of Italy who carried out his duties in an exemplary manner.

2. Madam President, we have listened very carefully to the report of Ambassador Shannon on the issue of "Prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices", also known as the 'cut-off' convention. Our deep and abiding commitment to 'cut-off' is well known. It is exemplified by the fact that we have since 1982 been tabling a resolution on it in one form or another at the UNGA, that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi included 'cut-off' like the CTBT in the very first stage of his Action Plan on a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order which was unveiled at SSOD III in 1988, and that in 1993 we were the proud co-sponsors along with Canada and other countries of the first ever UNGA consensus resolution on the subject viz. resolution 48/75 L. The flexibility of the international community together with its desire for forward movement was responsible for the achievement of this landmark

consensus resolution. In recognition of the importance of this resolution and the consensus embodied in it, India withdrew its resolution on nuclear arms freeze in 1993 and did not table it in 1994.

3. In this context, it is only natural that we welcome the setting up of an Ad hoc Committee on 'cut-off' on the basis of a mandate which has been negotiated by consensus as detailed in the 3 points in italics in Ambassador Shannon's report. The mandate as spelt out therein is squarely on the basis of the 1993 UNGA consensus resolution 48/75 L providing for a ban on production of fissile material or other nuclear explosive devices, the negotiations of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and the reportage of the Ad hoc Committee to the CD on the progress of its work before the conclusion of 1995 session. The mandate is no more and no less than this.

4. In conclusion, Madam President, I would be remiss if I did not thank Ambassador Shannon for the hard work put in by him in developing his report. As a cosponsor of the Resolution on 'cut-off' I have some idea of the immense complexity of his task. He has handled it most commendably with his customary energy, verve and enthusiasm.