

2/2

Remarks by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao of India at the Plenary of the CD
11th March, 2010

Mr President,

As this is the first time we are speaking under your Presidency, let me take this opportunity to convey to you our warm congratulations as well as underline our deep appreciation for the manner in which you have been conducting the work of the Conference. We would also like to thank you for undertaking consultations, including with India. We support your initiative to table Working Paper 559 to take forward the work of this Conference.

2. India attaches high importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We believe that the work of the CD should be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, including Rule of Consensus to provide the necessary assurance that the security interests of member-states shall be fully protected.

3. I would like to offer the following comments with regard to India's perspectives on WP559. India supports the early commencement of substantive work on the basis of consensus on a Programme of Work that takes into account the interests of all delegations. The Group of 21 has already indicated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work and includes the priority attached to Nuclear Disarmament, which India fully shares.

4. The CD was able to adopt by consensus a Programme of Work for 2009 contained in CD/1864 which was itself the result of a difficult compromise. Subsequently, Resolution 64/64 entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament", requested all member-states to cooperate with the President and the successive Presidents in their efforts to guide this Conference to the early commencement of substantive work, including negotiations, in its 2010 Session. It may also be recalled that Resolution 64/29 regarding the Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices was adopted by consensus. This resolution urges the Conference to agree early in 2010 on a Programme of Work that includes immediate commencement of

2/2

negotiations on FMCT. India supports the negotiation in the CD of a verifiable treaty banning the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. President,

5. India will not stand in the way if there is an emerging consensus on the adoption of a Programme of Work for 2010 based on WP559, if such a decision facilitates the early commencement of substantive work in the Conference.

6. However, if there is no consensus on the Programme of Work, it is incumbent on the President to continue consultations to build the necessary consensus on an acceptable Programme of Work. We do not favour reopening the long-standing consensus on the mandate on FMCT which is stated clearly in CD/1299, which is based on the consensus resolution adopted by the UNGA in 1993.

Mr. President,

7. The main vocation of the Conference is negotiation of multilateral treaties of universal application. Discussions in the Conference or on the sidelines cannot be considered as negotiations, nor can they be binding on member-states.

8. The WP559 offers a realistic basis for taking the Conference in the desired direction. We hope that the Conference will commence early substantive work.
