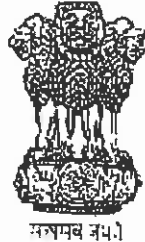


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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

CD PLENARY

17 August, 2010

STATEMENT

BY

**Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao
Permanent Representative of India
to the Conference on Disarmament**

India's Statement in the CD Plenary
August 17, 2010

Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased to see you preside over our deliberations. You have the assurance of our full cooperation and support in the discharge of your duties.

India attaches high importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. The Final Document of the UN General Assembly's First Special Session on Disarmament, adopted by consensus placed on the CD the responsibility of negotiating legal instruments of global applicability on various items of the agreed agenda. The Rules of Procedure, including the rule of consensus, have served the Conference well. These are essential in a member-driven negotiating forum that deals with security issues. We do not believe that the disarmament machinery per se is reason for the current impasse in the work of the Conference.

We share the widespread disappointment in the Conference that we have not been able to reach agreement on a Programme of Work of the CD this year. As we had indicated in the First Session itself, India will not stand in the way if consensus emerges on a Programme of Work picking up from where we were in terms of the consensus decision CD/1864 of 2009. It is pertinent to recall that Resolution 64/29 adopted by the UN General Assembly by consensus in December 2009 urged the Conference to agree early in 2010 on a Programme of Work that includes immediate commencement of negotiations on FMCT. In our view such negotiations are without prejudice to India's principled position on other agenda items, in particular the priority issue of nuclear disarmament. While India actively engaged in informal discussions on all the agenda items held during the last session, we are of the view that reaching agreement on a Programme of Work to enable commencement of substantive work should remain our top priority.

Mr. President,

As a member country of the G-21 and the NAM, India has attached the highest priority to nuclear disarmament. India has been consistent in its support for global, complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We have also held that non-proliferation can only be successful if it is linked to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put forth a concrete Action Plan in 1988 for the universal and non-discriminatory elimination of

nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework. India remains committed to its objective and the realization of its vision of ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order.

We welcome the new Russia-U.S. agreement to cut their nuclear arsenals. Between them the two still hold more than 90% of the nuclear weapons in the world and the new START is a step in the right direction. There is need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. It is useful to remember that the longest and most deep rooted impasse in the Conference on Disarmament has been on the agenda item related to nuclear disarmament. We hope that the CD will respond meaningfully to the recent spurt in international opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear weapons so that statements of intent are translated into specific and concrete actions leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

We believe that progressive steps for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons are essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. Reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons, de-alerting of nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear dangers including the possibility of accidental or unintentional use of nuclear weapons, measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons are steps which are gaining increasing international support. India's resolutions in the First Committee have given expression to a large number of these proposals. I would like to mention resolution (64/59) which proposed the negotiation by the CD of a Convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, Resolution (64/37) on Reducing Nuclear Danger and Resolution (64/38) On Measures to Prevent Terrorists from gaining access to WMD. We support negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. India has espoused the policy of no first use and non use against non-nuclear weapon States and is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. India has also supported a Global No-first Use treaty.

Mr. President,

India has had a consistent position with regard to FMCT. We co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 48/75L which expressed a unanimous conviction that a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other

nuclear explosive devices would be a significant contribution to nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The mandate, contained in the Shannon Report was based on the consensus UNGA Resolution of 1993, and called upon the Conference to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on a "ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" and to direct the Ad-Hoc Committee to negotiate, for this purpose, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty. Such a Committee was established twice in 1995 and again in 1998.

More recently, CD/1864 adopted by consensus by the Conference on 29 May 2009 established a Working Group to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the Shannon report and the mandate contained therein. Thus there is longstanding consensus within the international community over the basic goal and mandate of the FMCT, which has been reaffirmed on several occasions and no useful purpose would be served in re-opening it. India is committed to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty to ban the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The future treaty would have to meet India's national security interests. India is a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the world community, and would approach these negotiations as such.

Mr. President,

India supports international efforts to prevent the weaponization of outer-space taking into account fast changing technological developments which impact not just on the peaceful uses of outer-space but on space security as well. While non-discriminatory and universally acceptable TCBMs can be useful complementary measures, our objective should be the negotiation of legally binding instruments that enhance security in space and for all space users.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for the able manner in which you have guided our work. We deeply appreciate your efforts to consult with the members of the CD. We believe that it is incumbent on all delegations to strengthen your hands and those of your successors so that the Conference is best placed to commence substantive work at the earliest.

I thank you.

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