

Introduction of the resolution “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” in the First Committee of 60th UNGA

Statement by Jayant Prasad, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.”

The resolution, first adopted in 2002, has continued to command consensus support in 2003 both within the First Committee and the General Assembly, as also a growing number of co-sponsors.

It gives expression to the concerns of the international community and calls upon Member States of the United Nations to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring WMD. It underlines that the international response to this threat needs to be inclusive, multilateral and global. This approach has been widely endorsed, by the Non-Aligned Movement, the G-8, the European Union and most other regional organisations.

Besides some technical updates, the resolution takes cognisance of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council Resolution 1540. The new preambular paragraph 5 welcomes the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the new preambular paragraph 6 welcomes the adoption of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials by the IAEA. A new operative paragraph 2 invites all Member States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to enable its early entry into force.

The resolution has continuing relevance as an unambiguous statement from a body that is universal and democratic. The representative character of the General Assembly validates and reinforces the commitments we assume as Member States in regard to its objective.

I appeal to delegations of the First Committee to extend to this initiative an even wider measure of support than that expressed in the previous three years, through additional co-sponsorship of the resolution. This will demonstrate a larger measure of involvement of the UN membership on this vital issue.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.