

## **Introduction of the resolution “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” in the First Committee of 61<sup>st</sup> UNGA**

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

October 12, 2006

Madam Chairperson,

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

The resolution, first adopted in 2002, 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.

The resolution gives expression to the concerns of the international community and calls upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. 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 fora, including the Regional Forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Besides some technical updates, the resolution reiterates its request to the Secretary General to compile a report on measures taken by international organisations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It thus equips the General Assembly with system-wide information on the work being done on this issue within the United Nations as well as in other bodies.

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