



INDIA
भारत

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STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR HAMID ALI RAO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
GENEVA**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE
65TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 6, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I want to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee and by assuring you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your duties. This Committee has the vital task of strengthening consensus on the international disarmament agenda and our common resolve to achieve specific steps that enhance international peace and security. India aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches the highest priority to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. The vision for establishing a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order was most eloquently articulated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here in 1988. Twenty two years later, that vision remains as compelling as before but the goal remains a distant reality. In the meantime newer threats have emerged, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

In 2006, India tabled a working paper on Nuclear Disarmament containing specific proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. The Working Paper suggested a number of measures including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, measures to reduce nuclear danger, including de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-First-use' of nuclear-weapons, negotiation of a Convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, within a specified timeframe.

We believe that the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons is essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. 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. We support an intensification of dialogue to strengthen the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation. This dialogue should cover not just member states but the wider spectrum of non-governmental communities as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Without prejudice to the highest priority we attach to the goal of nuclear disarmament, India supports the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT that meets 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.

Addressing the High level meeting called by the UNSG on September 24th 2010, India's External Affairs Minister expressed disappointment that the CD, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, had been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. He expressed India's support for the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its programme of work in early 2011.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. India has a policy of a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. 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. 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. We also support a Global No-first Use treaty.

India is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The CWC remains a unique treaty providing for elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction through a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument. It is important that all state parties uphold and fulfil their commitments under the treaty. We look forward to strengthening the implementation of the BWC at the 7th Review Conference to be held in Geneva in 2011.

India continues to support efforts to strengthen the international legal framework on the security of space assets to enhance space security for all space users and specifically to prevent the weaponization of outer space, a common heritage of mankind. While universal and non-discriminatory TCBMS are useful complementary measures, we support the negotiation of legally binding instruments to strengthen space security and to prevent an arms race in Outer Space.

Mr. Chairman,

India is strongly committed to the CCW process as a keystone in the edifice of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law. We have ratified all the five CCW protocols. India has actively engaged in the negotiations on a draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions that strikes a balance between humanitarian and security considerations. We welcome the successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons held here in New York in June 2010. While we have participated actively in the preparatory meetings with

regard to the ATT, we believe that the prospects for a viable and effective outcome would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a transparent and consensus based process.

Mr. Chairman,

As in the previous years, India would be tabling three resolutions in the First Committee on:

- Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Reducing Nuclear Danger
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

We will be making more detailed presentations on these resolutions during the time allocated for that purpose.

Thank you
