



INDIA
भारत

Please check against delivery

Statement by

Mr. L K Advani,

Honourable Member of Parliament

And

Member of the Indian Delegation

At

**The 67th Session of the First Committee
of the General Assembly**

New York

11 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Please accept my delegation's congratulations on your well-deserved election as Chair of the First Committee. We are delighted that a distinguished representative of Indonesia is chairing the First Committee this year. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in pursuing our collective work.

2. India aligns itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

3. It is a painful reality that the goal of universal, nondiscriminatory nuclear disarmament remains a distant one. India's Action Plan of 1988, put forward by Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly, set out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. The principles contained in the Action Plan remain relevant and valid and India's Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament of 2006 retained the spirit and substance of the Action Plan. In order to raise awareness and research about global nuclear disarmament, a National Conference was held in New Delhi on August 21 this year for more than a thousand students and scholars.

4. We believe that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. India subscribes to a policy of 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 remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are committed to working with the international community to advance our common objectives of non-proliferation, including through strong export controls and membership of the multilateral export regimes.

5. Without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we support the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices 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. We share the disappointment that the impasse in the CD has persisted despite strong support for commencement of FMCT negotiations. We must work towards an early start of these negotiations in the CD as part of a comprehensive and balanced program of work and on the basis of the agreed mandate.

6. Mr. Chairman, the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention demonstrated that given a shared political will a universally acceptable non-discriminatory disarmament treaty to eliminate comprehensively an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a specified time frame under effective international verification can be negotiated multilaterally. The High Level meeting on the CWC, held in New York, was addressed by our External Affairs Minister on 1st Oct 2012. India is fully compliant

with its CWC obligations including the destruction of its chemical weapon stockpiles as prescribed by the Convention and we call on the remaining possessor states to complete the destruction of chemical stockpiles as soon as possible.

7. India welcomes the outcome of the 7th Review Conference and hopes that this would allow the state parties to face new challenges facing the Convention in the 21st century including bio-terrorism. We also welcome the consensus reached on the new inter-sessional programme, which got off to a good start this year with a Meeting of Experts focused on international cooperation and assistance, national implementation as well as review of scientific and technological developments of relevance to the Convention.

8. The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, including the safety of assets in space, should remain a priority. The international legal framework on space security needs to be strengthened to enhance security of space assets for all space users and to prevent the weaponisation of outer space. While universal and non-discriminatory transparency and confidence-building measures can play a useful complementary role, they cannot substitute legally binding instruments in this field.

9. India participated in the negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty held in July this year. Given the complexities of the issues involved, it was not possible for the Conference to adopt an agreed text. We believe that further work needs to be done and a treaty of this nature involving legally binding obligations should not be rushed through. It is important to bring all stakeholders on board in a manner that promotes the prospects of a treaty that is practical and implementable and is able to attract universal adherence. India is prepared to engage in further work in a consensus based process and outcome. India welcomes the consensus outcome of the 2nd Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent,

Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

10. Mr. Chairman, India would be presenting its three traditional resolutions for action by the First Committee. The draft resolution on a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and the draft Resolution on Reducing Nuclear Danger reflect our belief that progressive steps are needed for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and for increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons before they are eliminated. Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons and de-alerting of nuclear weapons are essential steps in this regard. As in previous years we would also be presenting a draft Resolution on Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction. The High Level Meeting held on September 28 demonstrates that nuclear terrorism remains a priority area for action by the international community. It has been India's consistent position that without diminishing state accountability for curbing terrorism or its linkages with weapons of mass destruction, the international community must come together to eliminate the risks related to sensitive technologies and materials falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors, including through clandestine proliferation networks.

11. Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I wish to address the issue of the disarmament machinery. India has welcomed the initiative of the UN Secretary General to focus debate on the revitalization of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations. We have participated in the debates in New York and Geneva on this issue. We believe the CD continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge its responsibility as the single multilateral negotiating forum. It is up to Member States to make it work by negotiating multilateral treaties that can be implemented

universally. Proposals that question the validity or relevance of the CD and weaken established multilateral negotiating institutions must be viewed with caution.

**