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**भारत**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, GENEVA**

**AT THE**

**2009 SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

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Mr. Chairman,

Please accept our congratulations on your election as the chair of the UNDC. My delegation will extend full support to you and members of the Bureau in the discharge of your responsibilities. India joins the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. The UNDC commences this year's substantive session at an important juncture, when there is renewed hope and expectation on addressing various challenges to international security. India has consistently attached high importance to the work of the UNDC as the specialized deliberative organ of the UN Disarmament machinery critical to the international community's effort to arrive at principles and recommendations of universal acceptance. While reaffirming the importance of multilateralism in this field, we call upon all members of Commission to redouble efforts this year so that we are able to give a positive impulse to global non-discriminatory disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

3. India attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament. We had presented a working paper on nuclear disarmament in the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2006. We will like to reiterate the salient points of that paper which should guide us in building consensus on achieving the goal of universal, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India has suggested initiation of concrete steps towards achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament based on the following elements:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
- Taking into account the global reach and menace of nuclear weapons, adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear-weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;

- Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons;
- Negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States;
- Negotiation of a Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified timeframe.

4. Nuclear disarmament has acquired greater urgency due to the new threat of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The danger of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists has made threat from nuclear weapons more complex and dangerous. While Member States strengthen national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and technologies related to their manufacture, it is also important to strengthen international cooperative efforts to address this critical challenge.

5. We welcome the renewed and active debate amongst scholars and statesmen on nuclear disarmament. A number of countries have also launched initiatives to add new life to the global disarmament agenda. Even amongst those nuclear weapon states that were reluctant supporters of nuclear reductions there appears to be a new willingness to ponder over the relevance and future of nuclear weapons. These trends must be further strengthened with the effort to achieve complete elimination of nuclear weapons, rather than ad-hoc steps in non-proliferation, an approach whose limitations we have seen in the past. We believe that the UNDC must respond to these new trends so as to achieve consensus on the way forward. We also hope that the Conference on Disarmament will make tangible progress through efforts at achieving consensus on an appropriate mandate on nuclear disarmament.

6. The Declaration of 2010s the Fourth Disarmament Decade is an appropriate subject for discussion at the UNDC as this declaration will give us the broad agenda which the UN disarmament machinery may pursue for

the next ten years. The Declaration will make us focused towards our task during the decade of 2010s. The previous decades of disarmament did achieve concrete results such as Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. What we now need is a Nuclear Weapons Convention which will close the loop on the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

7. The issue of Prevention of Arms race in Outer Space is also very pertinent and there are many proposals in this regard. A step by step approach for establishing a legal regime to address this issue must be taken during the decade.

8. Other issues such as implementation of UNPOA to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and action to devote resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitations agreement to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries should also receive rightful attention.

9. The United Nations and its member states should carry out dissemination of information and educational programmes that promote peace and security and that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament among the new generation so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. These programmes on disarmament education may include not only weapons of mass destruction but also small arms and light weapons and terrorism and other challenges. Civil Society, the academic community and NGOs can play a significant role in raising awareness and providing impetus for progress in these fields.

10. The discussions on the two topics in the last cycle were inconclusive. Therefore, we welcome a second round of deliberations on these two topics in this cycle. Both the issues are of critical importance in the disarmament agenda and therefore discussions on 'Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Confidence Building Measures in the field of Conventional Weapons' will be useful. There was substantive progress made in the discussions on these two topics during the last cycle. We should preserve that progress and build upon it to achieve consensus. Our effort should be to adopt meaningful recommendations at the end of the three year cycle

which should contribute to enhancing international security while providing undiminished and equal security to all states at lowest level of armaments.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We believe that during the fresh cycle of UNDC, we will be able adopt a set of guidelines and recommendations which will serve the disarmament agenda well. India will participate constructively in the deliberations and I assure you of my delegations full support in conducting the business of the Commission.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman