

**Statement on behalf of India by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao during
thematic debate on UN and Disarmament.**

Mr. Chairman,

As we stated in the Plenary, India believes that the United Nations is the embodiment of our faith in the benefits of collective action and of multilateral approaches in resolving global issues concerning global peace, stability and development. The UN in accordance with its Charter has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. Our approach to addressing issues relating to disarmament and related international security questions – the mandate of the **First Committee**, is underlined by our conviction that global contemporary challenges are best addressed through collective efforts imbued by a spirit of genuine multilateralism. We believe that such a spirit, backed by the necessary political will, can enable the international disarmament machinery set up by the First Special of General Assembly on Disarmament to yield the desired results.

As the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, there is a heavy burden on the **Conference on Disarmament** to make progress on the international disarmament agenda. We feel that international efforts in this field would yield results when they are backed by an international consensus on the way forward. We remain committed to efforts, consistent with the rules of procedure, aimed at enabling the CD reach consensus on its Programme of Work that takes into account the interests of all its stake holders. Since its decisions impact on national security of its member states, it is logical that the CD conduct its work and adopt its decisions by consensus.

India attaches high importance to the **UNDC**, which is the deliberative leg of the triad of the disarmament machinery put in place by consensus by the 10th Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. As the universal deliberative forum, it provides for in-depth consideration of specific disarmament issues for submission of recommendations to the General Assembly. I would like to draw attention to the discussions during the 2008 substantive session of the UNDC in April this year. Though the UNDC was unable to reach consensus on its recommendations, its deliberations showed some interesting trends and a willingness to look at common approaches of a universal character to bring back coherence and consensus on the security challenges of our times. This attests to the continuing value and significance of this body, which Member-States can utilize to draw-up guidelines and

recommendations of a universal character conveying a forward looking vision for a more secure world.

India attaches importance to the work of the Secretary General's **Advisory Board** on Disarmament matters. We have given careful consideration to the recommendations of the Board as contained in Report A/63/279. In particular we welcome the call on the Secretary General to strengthen his personal role in generating political will in the field of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation. As a body that can encompass universal views and aspirations, the Board must strive to reflect on the broadest range of views and opinions from both developed as well as developing countries. We are confident that its focus will remain the broader vision of global disarmament issues, rather than limited to the frameworks of one treaty or another.

As its Board of Trustees, we hope that the Advisory Board will provide all support to **UNIDIR**, which in addition to the most valuable repertoire of expertise it has built up over the last decade should also lend its considerable capabilities to the priority of global nuclear disarmament, on which adequate focus by UNIDIR would be welcome.

We compliment the Office of Disarmament Affairs under High Representative Sergio Duarte for his untiring efforts. This Office as a neutral body is key to maintaining the integrating role of the UN in global disarmament efforts and deserves our full support so that it is able to fulfill that role. The priorities of the Member States are paramount and we are confident that with the assistance of the ODA, our common objectives can be achieved.

We believe that UN efforts to promote and encourage disarmament and non-proliferation education based on the **recommendations of the 2002 UN study** will foster greater awareness and strengthen global collective will in favor of global disarmament objectives. India has once again cosponsored the draft resolution on this subject.

We welcome the opening of the new **UN Regional Centre** for peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific in Kathmandu on August 18th this year. In his message on the occasion, read out by his Chef de cabinet, Vijay Nambiar, the UNSG called on all countries of the Region to work closely with the Regional Centre. India will extend all possible support for the Kathmandu Centre to fulfill its mandate.