

India's Explanation of Vote (POST-VOTING)
Nuclear Weapons Cluster
79th UNGA First Committee, UNHQ, New York, November 2024

L.41 Steps to building a common road map towards a world without nuclear weapons

India has abstained on the resolution L.41.

We acknowledge that Japan, the lead sponsor, is the only country to have suffered a nuclear weapons attack. We share the resolution's aspiration of nuclear disarmament. India remains committed to a nuclear-weapon-free world and to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

India has abstained on OP5 and OP6. India supports the commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the CD on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. However, India believes that the moratoria on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, is by its very nature voluntary, reversible and not verifiable, unlike an FMCT which will impose a treaty obligation and will be verifiable and irreversible.

India has not joined INFCIRC/549. India's obligations in respect of IAEA safeguards of fissile material are contained in India's specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA contained in INFCIRC/754 and an additional protocol contained in INFCIRC/754/Add 6. While India remains committed to fully implementing these agreements, it does not recognize additional obligations or commitments in respect of safeguards or management of fissile material beyond the scope of the two documents.

Our views on the CTBT are well known and in view of these we have voted against OP7.

L.39: Nuclear War Effects and Scientific Research

India has abstained on the resolution on L.39, as a whole and its PP11.

India believes that the over-riding priority of the international community, in accordance with the outcome document SSOD-1, should be the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

As a nuclear weapon state, India's commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament remains undiminished. This goal 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.

Pending the global elimination of nuclear weapons, India has put forward a number of proposals for reducing, in all its aspects, nuclear risks and dangers in the document CD/1816, submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007.

India shares the deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. India's resolutions in the First Committee reflect this concern and have inter alia emphasised the need to take effective legal measures to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons.

At this stage, India remains to be fully convinced of the value of an additional study on the consequences of a nuclear war. In addition, India has concerns about the methods of work of the proposed group and emphasizes the importance of consensus on matters of substance and procedure in its working.

L.68: Comprehensive Study of the Question of NWFZ in all its aspects

India has voted in favour of L.68.

India believes that nuclear weapon free zones should be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. The initiative to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone should emanate exclusively from States within the region concerned and be pursued by all the States of that region. This position is consistent with the Final Document of SSOD-1 as well as the guidelines and principles on establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by consensus by the Disarmament Commission in 1999

It needs be to be fully examined whether the proposed study will add value to these conclusions agreed by all member states. India abstained on its PP7, given our position on NPT. We are also not convinced that there have been developments in international law that are relevant to the establishment of nuclear weapons free-zones.

India has abstained on OP1, because we have concerns about the methods of work of the proposed group and believes that the issue should be studied by either GGEs or OEWGs, operating according to the established practice and on the basis of consensus.

L.67: GSTE on NDV

India has voted in favour of L.67. However, India abstained on its PP12. India is not a party to the NPT and is not bound by any outcomes arising from it or its terminologies, including classification of states contained in the treaty.

India is a nuclear-weapon state. This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant.

L.74: Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons: providing victim assistance and environmental remediation to member States affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons

India shares the sentiment of the sponsors embodied in L.74

We have participated in the four meetings on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and supported relevant resolutions on the issue in multilateral forums. Our approach is premised on the shared notion of the serious threat to survival of humankind that could be posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

India's positions on NPT, CTBT and TPNW, referred to in the resolution, are well known.

The resolution also does not sufficiently differentiate between the impacts of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, nor between the different kinds of tests that have been conducted.

Therefore, we have been constrained to abstain on the resolution.

L.34 Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

India has voted against the resolution L.34. This resolution is embedded in the NPT context. India's views on the NPT are well known.

We have voted against OP25, since India cannot accept the call to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. In urging India to accede to NPT "promptly and without conditions," the draft resolution negates the rules of customary international law, as enshrined in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which provides that a State's acceptance, ratification or accession to a treaty is based on the principle of free consent.

India is a responsible Nuclear Weapon State and therefore there is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

The resolution also contains references to the CTBT and the TPNW. India's position on these treaties too is well known.
