

India's Explanation of Vote (PRE-VOTING)
NUCLEAR WEAPONS Cluster
79 UNGA First Committee, UNHQ, New York, November 2024

L.2: The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

On L.2 - India believes that the focus of this resolution should be limited to the region that it intends to address.

The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, provides that States are bound by a treaty based on the principle of free consent. The call to those States outside the NPT to accede to it and to accept IAEA safeguards on all their nuclear facilities is at variance with this principle.

India is not a Party to the NPT and is not bound by its outcome documents. This applies also to certain operative paragraphs contained in the resolution.

L.17 and 18: Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status & African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty

On L.17 and L.18, India respects the sovereign choice of non-nuclear weapon states to establish nuclear-weapon-free-zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. This principle is consistent with the provisions of SSOD-I and the UNDC Guidelines.

We respect the sovereign choice of Mongolia, and States Parties to the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty.

India has friendly ties with Mongolia and countries of Africa. As a nuclear-weapon State, India conveys its unambiguous assurance that it will respect Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status and that of African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone.

L.25: Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

On L.25 - India has been the only State possessing nuclear weapons to have traditionally co-sponsored this resolution in the past.

We were disappointed with the substantive changes made to the traditional text of the resolution in the past. In particular, we were disappointed that references to the early conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention, based on the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, co-submitted by the lead sponsors themselves, had been dropped.

Further, the objective of this resolution, as reflected in OP2, is ambiguous. Therefore, India will abstain on the resolution.

L.35: Ethical Imperatives for a Nuclear Weapon Free World

On L.35, India agrees with several provisions of this resolution, in particular its acknowledgment that nuclear disarmament is a global public good of the highest order.

We support the ICJ Advisory Opinion, that there exists a legal obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this regard, India has supported the NAM proposal for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The global elimination of nuclear weapons will require progressive steps aimed at reduction in their military utility, reduction in their role in security policies and a universal commitment, with a global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework for nuclear disarmament. Until that goal is accomplished, reflected in specific international legal instruments, questions relating to the immorality of nuclear weapons have to be examined in the framework of the sovereign responsibility of states to protect their security in a nuclearized global order put together on the pillars of nuclear deterrence.

India's nuclear doctrine of credible minimum deterrence, with the posture of no-first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapons States achieves this very balance

L.36: Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

India is voting in favor of resolution L.36 consistent with its participation in the four meetings in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Our participation in these meetings was premised on the shared concern of the serious threat to the survival of humankind that could be posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

L.37: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

India did not participate in the negotiations on the TPNW. Therefore, it is not bound by obligations that arise from it.

India believes that this Treaty does not constitute or contribute to the development of customary international law.

However, India reiterates its commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world. India believes that this goal can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework, as outlined in India's Working Paper titled "Nuclear Disarmament", submitted to the UNGA in 2006.

In this regard, India supports the commencement of negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Conference on Disarmament.

L.56: Nuclear Disarmament

On L.56, We compliment Myanmar for retaining vital principled paragraphs in this resolution which are supported by a vast majority of member States. India shares the main objective of the resolution, which is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. India attaches a high priority to nuclear disarmament.

However, we have abstained on the resolution because of certain references to the NPT, CTBT as well as the TPNW, on which India's position is well known. We support other provisions of the resolution, which we believe are consistent with India's positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
