

**Statement by India at the CD plenary**

**28 May 2009**

Mr. President,

We have requested the floor to convey India's position with regard to the draft decision regarding Programme of Work for the 2009 Session contained in CD 1863. We have noted that the draft decision provides the basis for commencement of substantive work of the Conference, an objective that India has consistently supported.

India supports the establishment of a Working Group to negotiate an FMCT. This is in keeping with our position since 1993, when India joined as a co-sponsor UNGA resolution 48/75 L. As a country possessing nuclear weapons we are willing to conclude a universal, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosives devices.

India attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons on a universal and non-discriminatory basis. While disappointed that the CD has not been able to launch negotiations on Nuclear Disarmament, we believe that the CD should continue to explore all possible avenues to make progress so as to respond meaningfully to growing international opinion in favour of a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

India will not stand in the way of the adoption of the draft decision contained in CD 1863 in the hope that this will now allow the Conference to commence substantive work. We reserve the right to make remarks on substantive elements of the Programme of work after its formal adoption by the Conference.

While conveying our appreciation for your dedicated efforts, we remain hopeful that our common efforts will bear substantive fruit in the near future.

Thank you.