

India's Explanation of Vote (POST VOTING)

**Nuclear Weapons Cluster- 77th UNGA First Committee, 28 October 2022,
UNHQ, New York**

- Delivered by Ms. Subhashini Narayanan, Counsellor (Disarmament)

L.17: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

India would like to state that it did not participate in the negotiations on the TPNW, therefore, will not become a party to the Treaty, and shall not be bound by any of the obligations that may arise from it.

India believes that this Treaty does not constitute or contribute to the development of any customary international law. 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 our 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.42: Nuclear Disarmament

On L.42 Nuclear Disarmament, we share the main objective of the draft resolution L.42, which is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. Let me reiterate that 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. We compliment Myanmar for retaining vital principled paragraphs in this resolution which are supported by a vast majority of member States.

L.46 Ethical Imperatives for a Nuclear Weapon Free World

On L.46, 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 an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a 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 an 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.61 Steps to building a common road map towards a world without nuclear weapons

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

India supports the commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the CD on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. However, India does not support calls for moratoria on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. A moratorium by its very nature is

voluntary, reversible and not verifiable, unlike an FMCT which will impose a treaty obligation and will be verifiable and irreversible. A moratorium will only weaken the resolve to negotiate an FMCT and set us back.

Our views on the CTBT are well known and in view of these, we have voted against OP 5. Furthermore, India's views on the NPT are well known. This resolution has included a number of references to the NPT. India is not a State Party to the Treaty, and therefore these references are not applicable to India and may be kept in perspective by the Member States.

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