

India's Explanation of Vote (PRE VOTING)
NUCLEAR WEAPONS Cluster- 77th UNGA First Committee,
28 October 2022, UNHQ, New York
- Delivered by Mr. Maitrey Kulkarni, Deputy Secretary (D&ISA)

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

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 remaining 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 L.2.

L.16: Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

India is voting in favor of resolution L.16 Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons 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 on the serious threat to the survival of humankind that could be posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

L.19 Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

As a country that maintains close friendly ties with Mongolia, India wishes to state its position on L.19 on Mongolia's international security and nuclear weapon free status.

We note the many steps Mongolia has taken to reinforce such a status and that Mongolia has received support and security assurances for such a status from Member States, particularly those that possess nuclear weapons.

India fully respects the choice made by Mongolia and conveys its unambiguous assurance that it will respect Mongolia's nuclear weapon-free status.

L.22: Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

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

We were disappointed that substantive changes were made to the traditional text of the resolution in 2017.

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, my delegation had to withdraw its co-sponsorship and abstain on the resolution.

L.30 African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty

India wishes to state its position on L.30 African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty. 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.

India enjoys friendly and mutually beneficial relations with countries of the African continent. India shares and supports their aspirations for enhancing the region's well-being and security. We respect the sovereign choice of States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty and welcome the successful entry into force of the Treaty.

As a nuclear weapon State, India conveys its unambiguous assurance that it will respect the status of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.
