

Statement by India during the thematic debate on 'Other Weapons of Mass Destruction' at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a major challenge to international security and endanger the foundation of democratic societies.

India is deeply concerned about the risks arising from weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors.

India supports the strengthening of efforts through international cooperation and within the UN framework to address it.

India has confronted terrorism for many decades, its annual Resolution at the UNGA, titled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD", focus dangers of the proliferation of WMD and the potential for their exploitation by terrorists and non-state actors.

Tabled since 2002 and adopted by consensus, the resolution urges Member States to support international efforts as well as to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD and their means of delivery.

India is very pleased that this resolution was adopted without a vote last year and received the support of almost 92 sponsors and cosponsors.

On its part, India has an active comprehensive domestic legislation that effectively demonstrates India's firm commitment to prevent proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems.

India has a robust and effective national export control system based on legislation, regulations and a control list of sensitive material, equipment and technologies consistent with the highest international standards.

India contributes to global non-proliferation efforts as a member of the export control regimes including the MTCR and the Australia Group.

India recognizes the important role of the 1540 Committee in supporting member states' efforts to prevent access of WMDs to non-State actors. As a member of the 1540 Committee, we engage constructively to ensure that the renewed mandate of the Committee would enable it to assist member states in enhancing their implementation of the resolution, and in more effectively addressing the contemporary and evolving challenges related to proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems to non-state actors, in particular for terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

India supports full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the CWC and its universalization.

India firmly believes that the use of chemical weapons, anywhere, by anybody and under any circumstances cannot be justified.

We believe that impartiality and integrity of OPCW must be preserved and maintained under all circumstances.

With a large and growing chemical industry, India is committed to upholding the objectives of the CWC and actively cooperates with OPCW through regular inspections and through enhancing international cooperation and assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

India reiterates the high importance that it has always attached to the BWC and to its universalisation and full and effective implementation. We have actively participated in the inter-sessional process of the BWC established under India's Chair in 2017.

As we approach the 9th RevCon, we reiterate our call for institutional strengthening of the Convention, including negotiation of a comprehensive and legally binding Protocol, providing for an effective, universal and non-discriminatory verification mechanism.

India seeks the support of all Member States on its joint proposal with France for establishment of a database to strengthen assistance, response and preparedness under Article VII of the BWC and a decision on this at the RevCon. India believes that effective implementation of Article X, could bring equitable benefits for States Parties, in particular developing countries.

The financial health of the Convention must be placed on a sustainable footing by ensuring both stability and predictability of resources.

Mr. Chairman,

We seek the continued support of all Member States as sponsors & cosponsors towards the important initiatives that are embodied in India's resolution under the Other WMD Cluster and for its adoption by consensus.

I thank you!