

Statement by India during the thematic debate on Nuclear Weapons at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, October 2022

Mr. Chair

The First Committee tasked with finding lasting solutions to important matters of international peace and security meets in turbulent times.

Our deliberations assume even greater salience and urgency and provide an invaluable opportunity to reaffirm commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

India attaches high importance to the First Committee's work and looks forward to genuine dialogue that can achieve convergences and progress towards the aims set out by the first Special Session on Disarmament.

Mr. Chair

India, as a responsible nuclear weapon State, has a policy of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence with a no-first use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States.

We remain firmly committed to nuclear disarmament which is universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable.

We are convinced that this goal can be achieved in a time-bound manner by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory.

India's approach is outlined in our Working Paper submitted to the UNGA First Committee in 2006 and to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007, and has an enduring relevance.

As the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, the Conference on Disarmament has the mandate and membership to commence negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Without diminishing the priority that we attach to disarmament, India supports the immediate commencement of negotiations in the CD on a non-discriminatory, multilateral internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, which remains the most suitable basis for negotiations.

Mr. Chair

India's annual resolution on a "Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons", tabled since 1982 in the UNGA requests the CD to commence negotiations on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

It is our conviction that such a multilateral, universal and legally binding agreement would generate necessary political will among States possessing nuclear weapons to engage in negotiations leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Our resolution on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger', tabled since 1998 in the UNGA, has drawn global attention to the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons and calls for steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons.

India presents these two resolutions in this cluster and seeks the kind support and sponsorship of Member States for their adoption.

Mr. Chair

India would like to reiterate that the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, negotiated outside the CD, does not create any obligations for India.

India believes that this Treaty, in no way constitutes or contributes to the development of any customary international law. However, India stands ready to work with all countries to achieve our shared goal of nuclear disarmament.

India strongly supports upholding and strengthening global non-proliferation objectives. It is important for the international community to prevent terrorists and non-state actors from gaining access to nuclear weapons, materials and technologies.

The international community must also come together to isolate States which harbour and provide support to terrorists based on their soil.

Mr. Chair

India stands ready to work with fellow member States towards the shared objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.