



INDIA
भारत

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANUPAM RAY IN THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE, UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK - October 21, 2025

Madame Chair

India continues to be committed to nuclear disarmament, which must be universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable.

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, which is global and non-discriminatory in nature.

We have outlined our approach to nuclear disarmament in a Working Paper submitted to the First Committee in 2006 and to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007 (CD/1816). This approach has an enduring relevance.

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

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

India is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements.

India remains committed to a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We have also indicated willingness to move towards a de jure formalisation of this declaration.

Without diminishing the priority that we attach to disarmament, India supports the immediate commencement of negotiations in the CD of a non-discriminatory, multilateral, and 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.

Madame Chair,

India acknowledges that the use of AI in nuclear command and control (NC3) raises questions. India's position is that the decision to use nuclear weapons would be taken by humans.

Madame Chair,

India presents two resolutions in this cluster.

India is committed to reducing nuclear danger and since 1998 we have introduced a resolution on this issue that draws 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.

The resolution on a "Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons" that India has introduced since 1982 in this Committee requests the CD to commence negotiations on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

We are convinced 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 their total elimination.

We seek continued support and sponsorship of Member States for these resolutions.

Madame Chair,

The Treaty on Prohibition of nuclear weapons, negotiated outside the Conference on Disarmament, does not create obligations for India.

India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament, however, remains unchanged.

India strongly supports upholding and strengthening global non-proliferation objectives.

We stand ready to work with all countries to achieve that objective.

We believe that the international community must do all it can to prevent terrorists and non-state actors from gaining access to nuclear weapons, materials and technologies.
