



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

**India's Explanation of Vote (PRE-VOTING)**

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS Cluster**

**80 UNGA First Committee, UNHQ, New York, 30 October 2025**

I will present India's explanation of votes on the following resolutions in the nuclear cluster.

**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 any treaty based on the principle of free consent. The call to those States 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, therefore, not bound by its outcome documents. The same applies to certain operative paragraphs contained in the resolution.

**L.17: Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons**

India is voting in favor of resolution L.17 on "Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons", consistent with our 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 of the serious threat to the survival of humankind that could be posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

**L.25: Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons**

On L.25, India was originally the only State possessing nuclear weapons, which had traditionally co-sponsored this resolution.

We were disappointed with the substantive changes made to the traditional text of the resolution in the past, including that the references to the early conclusion of a 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, India will abstain on the resolution.

### **L.26: Ethical Imperatives for a Nuclear Weapon Free World**

On L.26, 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 a legal obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament. In this regard, India has supported the NAM proposal for the commencement of negotiations in the CD on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The global elimination of nuclear weapons will require progressive steps aimed at reduction of their military utility and their role in security policies, underwritten by a universal commitment to nuclear disarmament, with a global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework. Until that goal is accomplished, reflected in specific international legal instruments, questions relating to the immorality of nuclear weapons must be examined in the framework of the sovereign responsibility of States to protect their security in a nuclearized global order.

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.

Therefore, India is constrained to abstain on the resolution.

### **L32: African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty**

India will vote in favor of resolution L.32.

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 has friendly ties with countries of Africa, and we respect the sovereign choice of States Parties to the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty.

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

### **L.37: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

On L.37, India's position on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is well known. India did not participate in the negotiations on the TPNW.

While underlining that India is not bound by obligations that arise from TPNW, India remains committed to the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world.

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, consistent with India's Working Paper titled "Nuclear Disarmament", submitted to the UN GA in 2006.

In this regard, India supports the commencement of negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Conference on Disarmament.

### **L.55 Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments**

India will vote against the resolution L.55.

This resolution is embedded in the NPT context. India's views on the NPT are well known.

We have called a vote on OP25, since India cannot accept the call to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. In urging India to accede to NPT "promptly and without conditions," the draft resolution negates the rules of customary international law, as enshrined in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which provides that a State's acceptance, ratification or accession to a treaty is based on the principle of free consent.

Let me reiterate: India is a responsible nuclear-weapon State. There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek, nor is it a status for others to grant.

### **L.56: Nuclear Disarmament**

On L.56, India compliments Myanmar for retaining vital principled paragraphs in this resolution which are supported by a vast majority of member States. India shares the main objective of the resolution, which is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. 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.

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