



# INDIA भारत

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Statement  
by  
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to the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva

“2016 Substantive Session of the  
UN Disarmament Commission”

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

The Indian delegation congratulates you on your election as the Chair of the 2016 Session of the UNDC and assures you of its full cooperation. We would also like to congratulate other members of the bureau on their election. We convey our appreciation to the Chairs of the two working groups, Amb. Kairat Abdarakhmanov of Kazakhstan and Mr. Bouchaib Eloumni of Morocco for their diligent efforts last year and during the intersessional period. We would like to thank H.E. Mr. Kim Won Soo, the High Representative for Disarmament for his important statement today, in particular his emphasis on the need for the UNDC to move forward including on a possible third agenda item.

2. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

3. The Disarmament Commission - the only body with universal membership and the specialized deliberative leg of the triad of the disarmament machinery put in place by the Final Document of SSOD I - has had past successes in adopting guidelines and recommendations on disarmament issues which have been of enduring value to the international community. While we share the wide spread disappointment that the UNDC has not been able to adopt consensus guidelines since 1999, in our view, the current difficulties relate less to any inherent deficiencies in the machinery and more to the lack of political will of member states to invest in multilateral outcomes.

4. As a platform for dialogue and cooperation the Commission can play an important role in reducing tensions and building confidence provided member states start investing in this forum. This is not to deny that the Commission can do more to improve its functioning by undertaking focused and result oriented discussions on items on its agenda. We feel that SSOD IV is the appropriate forum to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the disarmament machinery.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Addressing the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington last week, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underlined that India remains committed to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. India supports the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a part of our commitment to combat climate change. Nuclear security will be a continuing priority for India.

Mr. Chairman,

6. India attaches priority to global, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner. India believes there is a need to uphold genuine multilateralism to increase trust and confidence among all States, both nuclear and non-nuclear, and to strengthen dialogue so as to close the gaps both on the constitution and expression of international will regarding the pursuit of negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament. As such, India has supported the proposal put forward by NAM for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention. We have also called for a reaffirmation of the unequivocal

commitment by all nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and an agreement on a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. India has also called for meaningful dialogue amongst all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

7. India's resolutions in the First Committee – on Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and on Reducing Nuclear Dangers have received support from a large of member states. Without prejudice to the priority attached to nuclear disarmament, India has also supported the commencement of negotiations of an FMCT in the CD on the basis of the agreed mandate. India also supported resolution 70/57 sponsored by Kazakhstan on a 'Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World', the only nuclear weapon state to do so.

Mr. Chairman,

8. On 'Practical CBMs in the field of conventional weapons', the UNDC has in the past contributed valuable guidelines in this field. There is merit in building on the useful discussions of last year with a view to bridging the remaining gaps. Confidence building must be a step-by-step process and should evolve at a pace comfortable to all participating states. CBMs should be adopted on the initiation and with the agreement of the States concerned. In elaborating practical CBMs in the area of conventional weapons, we should take advantage of the UNDC guidelines on CBMs endorsed by the UNGA at its 41st session.

9. We support UNDC seeking inputs on specific topics of common interest to our Agenda from UNIDIR and in providing adequate resources for UNIDIR in preparing such studies.

10. On the issue of a possible third agenda item, the UNGA in its 69<sup>th</sup> session had mandated the Commission to keep in mind the proposal to include a third item on the 2015 agenda. While our priority remains the agenda item on nuclear disarmament, we will not stand in the way of consensus on a third agenda item, especially if it has the potential to expand the ground for consensus building and help the international community respond in a meaningful manner to new and emerging challenges relevant to the disarmament agenda.

Mr Chairman.

11. This being the second year of the current triennial cycle, our deliberations will be important in laying the foundation for adoption of substantive recommendations at the conclusion of the cycle next year. We look forward to in-depth exchange of views on all aspects related to the two agenda items. You can rest assured of the full support and cooperation of the Indian delegation.

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