



**Explanation of Vote by Mr. Muktesh Pardeshi, First Secretary
Permanent Mission of India to Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
on Agenda item 59: L. 33 Verification in all its aspects
1 November 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

India has consistently supported effective verification as an essential element of all disarmament and arms control agreements.

India has proposed a single, integrated multilateral verification system under the aegis of the United Nations as an integral part of a strengthened multilateral framework required to ensure peace and security during the process of general and complete disarmament, including the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. This was conceived as part of a new system of comprehensive global security. Augmenting UN's verification capacity is, thus, intrinsically linked to progress on a phased but time-bound programme of disarmament.

A verification mechanism cannot exist in the abstract and should be linked to specific legal instruments on arms control and disarmament. Major disarmament and non-proliferation instruments such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty provide for verification mechanisms and institutions to implement these provisions in order to verify compliance of the States Parties to these instruments. India is in favour of inclusion of provision of adequate and effective verification mechanism in the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Moreover, the United Nations Disarmament Commission had considered the issue of verification in all its aspects thoroughly and had enunciated sixteen principles of verification following its deliberations. The UNDC underlined that verification is not an aim in itself but an essential element in the process of achieving arms limitation and disarmament agreements. In view of UNDC's work and the report of the UN panel of government experts on verification in all its aspects in 1995, it may be premature to recommend the establishment of a panel of government experts to explore the same issues. However, in view of the Sponsors' call to adopt the Resolution without a vote, the Indian delegation has joined the consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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