

A55/C.1/L.49: Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

***Explanation of Vote by Mr. J.S. Mukul, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India in Geneva
on November 2, 2000***

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian delegation has asked for the floor, following the adoption of Resolution contained in L.49 (without a vote). India is committed to participating constructively in the negotiations for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable Treaty banning the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We hope that the CD is able to commence its substantive work early next year, as indicated in the G-21 statement at the concluding CD Plenary in September 2000, “within the framework of a Programme of Work which reflects the priorities and interests of all delegations”.

In this context, we find the reference to concluding the FMCT within a five years to be premature. My delegation would therefore like to reserve its position regarding any artificial deadlines which may have the effect of pre-judging the negotiations, in which we have committed to participating constructively and in good faith.