

L.35/Rev.1: A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons

*Explanation of Vote by Mr. T. P. Seetharam, Minister, Permanent Mission of India
in Geneva on November 6, 2001*

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of India has requested the floor after the adoption of this Resolution to state its position. India has an unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament and the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons globally. However, the instrument ostensibly designed to promote global nuclear disarmament and genuine non-proliferation in all its aspects - the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - has sadly proved to be ineffective. It is necessary to look beyond the old framework of the NPT and move towards the goal of equal and legitimate security for all, through global nuclear disarmament.

The basing of this Resolution exclusively on the NPT renders it flawed and thus unacceptable - welcoming the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference that is not a balanced document in PP8; and the call for a moratorium on production of fissile materials in OP3 (b) ignore political reality. The reference to nuclear tests in PP6 and the call for universality of the NPT in OP1, are examples of hollow rhetoric. There are also a number of recommendations in the Tokyo Forum Report referred to in PP7, which fall in the same category. While we agree with the basic objective of the Resolution, namely the global elimination of nuclear weapons, there are numerous elements in the Resolution, which remain unacceptable.

Therefore, my delegation has cast a negative vote on the Resolution as a whole.