

L.33: Prohibition of the Dumping of Radioactive Wastes

***Explanation of Vote by Mr. T. P. Seetharam, Minister, Permanent Mission of India
in Geneva on October 30, 2001***

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has requested the floor after the adoption without a vote of this resolution to state its position with regard to OP8. India has been fully supportive of the central objective of this resolution and has therefore joined in the consensus. India was one among the few countries which has supported the retention of radiological weapons on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, as we believe that the international community must remain vigilant to the grave dangers posed by nuclear or radioactive waste and the possibility of their military use.

OP8 of the draft resolution refers to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. As a developing country, India places high importance not only on the safety but also on the full utilization of all aspects of the fuel cycle, to derive maximum benefits. Therefore, spent fuel is not a waste but also a valuable resource, a position that India has been consistently supporting at the IAEA.

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