

**Explanation of Vote by Mr. D.B.V.Varma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, on Agenda Item 73: Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee on November 5, 2003**

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the sponsor of this important resolution and appreciate the constructive approach taken by the US delegation in conducting wide-ranging consultations at the drafting stage. India sees the text in the context of the common objective of the collective strengthening of multilateralism. We look forward to addressing the core issue of reform of the First Committee, essentially its working methods, and to actively work towards the objectives of the draft. India would support the resolution, as it provided a platform for a much needed discussion. Let us not hang all our problems, difficulties or frustrations on the belief that there is one magic solution to all issues. This resolution would create a platform for furthering the Committee's work methods and would be an important contribution to a larger question of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

Thank you.

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