

A55/C.1/L.46: Regional disarmament and non-proliferation

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

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has asked for the floor to explain its vote with regard to PP6 of this Resolution which makes a reference to an earlier Resolution regarding the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia on which my delegation had voted against. Since 1998, this resolution itself has been dropped by its sponsors as no longer valid. Further, the reference to this proposal now, also goes contrary to the well established principles regarding the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones, i.e. these zones must be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. The UNDC Guidelines of last year reaffirmed this principle by consensus. There is thus a contradiction between PP4 and PP6. This contradiction becomes even more apparent when the reference to a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia is seen against the context of current realities. As we have stated in the past, any reference to a NWFZ in South Asia has as much validity as NWFZs in East Asia, Western Europe or North America. Given this contradiction in PP6, my delegation has voted against this para, while abstaining on the resolution as a whole.