

## EXPLATNION OF VOTE

(Delivered by Acting Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on 18 February 2011 after the vote on draft resolution S/2011/24 on “Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories”)

Madam President,

Consistent with our long-standing position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and our position that the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law; India has co-sponsored the resolution and voted in favour.

It is our sincere hope and expectation that wiser counsel will prevail among parties concerned and that the path of dialogue will be the only path followed to realize peace in the region.

Even though the Council today could not adopt the resolution, we expect that the sentiments expressed by the members of the Security Council will impel the parties to seriously introspect and realize that the only way to resolve the problem is to restart talks on all pending issues so that lasting peace is established and as mentioned by many in the Council today, we can welcome by September 2011 an independent viable united state of Palestine to the international community with East Jerusalem as its capital living side by side and at peace with Israel.

Thank you.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL