

Explanation of Vote by Mr. D.B.V.Varma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, on Agenda item 73 :A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, October 30, 2003

Mr. Chairman,

India's unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament and the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons globally is well known. However, the instrument purported to have been intended to achieve these objectives, the NPT, does not seem to have been effective, as has already been pointed out in this forum on several occasions in this Session. India would like to reiterate that it is necessary to recognize this and, instead, take a path beyond the framework of the NPT towards equal and legitimate security for all through global disarmament.

Therefore, while we agree with the basic objective of the resolution, that is global elimination of nuclear weapons, we cannot support the resolution because it contains many elements that are based on a flawed approach, and, therefore, remain unacceptable to India. India could not, therefore, support the resolution and cast a negative vote on the resolution.

Thank you.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS