

Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Follow-up meeting to the High Level Meeting on Revitalizing the work on the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament negotiations at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on New York, July 28, 2011.

Mr. President,

I join other colleagues in thanking you for convening this follow-up meeting to the High Level Meeting convened by the UN Secretary General which was attended by our External Affairs Minister His Excellency Shri S.M. Krishna on September 24, 2010.

India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

Almost one year has elapsed since the convening of the last HLM. The Conference on Disarmament is still unable to undertake its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. We share the disappointment among Member States on the continuing impasse in the CD. We believe that the CD or its rules of procedure are not to be blamed for this impasse. We believe that this meeting should send a strong message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral agenda, which includes early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament adopted a consensus decision in May 2009 on its Programme of work, which included immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. The High Level Meeting of 24 September 2010 demonstrated a very broad measure of support for CD/1864. In fact the first recommendation of that meeting, reiterated subsequently by the UN Secretary General in his address to the CD on January 26 this year, was for the CD to adopt that or a similar programme of work in 2011. India will not stand in the way if consensus emerges on a Programme of Work picking up from where we were in terms of the

consensus decision CD/1864, if such a decision facilitates the early commencement of substantive work in the Conference, including negotiation of an FMCT, on the basis of the mandate contained in CD/1299. This is without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament.

India has been steadfast in its support for global, non-discriminatory verifiable nuclear disarmament. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented a visionary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order. This Action Plan sets out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. It may be recalled that the Final Document of the First Special session on Disarmament accorded nuclear disarmament the highest priority. We believe that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Mr. President,

I would like to reaffirm our support for the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, recognized as such by the international community. The CD continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge this responsibility. It is up to member states to make it work, by negotiating multilateral treaties which can be implemented universally. Proposals that question the viability or relevance of the CD or even suggest unrealistic alternatives will not lead to useful or productive results in taking forward the agreed multilateral agenda with the participation of all relevant countries. We hope that our discussions today will build a positive momentum for the disarmament agenda and reaffirm the critical role of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum for achieving our common goals.

Thank you.

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