

Explanation of vote by Mr. D.B.V.Varma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, on Agenda item : 73(b) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes on October 27, 2003

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has requested the floor to state its position with regard to OP 8 of the resolution "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" contained in document A/C.1/58/L.12 after its adoption without a vote. India has been fully supportive of the central objective of this resolution and has therefore joined in the consensus. India was one among the few countries which have supported the retention of radiological weapons on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, as we believe that the international community must remain vigilant to the grave dangers posed by nuclear or radioactive waste and the possibility of their military use.

OP 8 of the resolution refers to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. As a developing country, India places high importance not only on the safety but also on the full utilization of all aspects of the fuel cycle, to derive maximum benefits. Therefore, spent fuel is not a waste but also a valuable resource, a position that India has been consistently supporting at the IAEA.

Thank you.

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