

**74<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly**  
**International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**  
**India Statement**  
**Mr. Gitesh Sarma, Secretary (West)**  
**26 September 2019**

Mr. President,

India joins the international community in commemoration of 26 September as International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. India associates itself with the NAM statement on the commemoration of this Day.

India has been unwavering in its support for universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, leading to complete elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-I). India's approach to nuclear disarmament is outlined in India's Working Paper submitted to the First Committee of the UNGA during its 2006 Session. India is convinced 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.

India has maintained that there is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons for building trust and confidence and reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Mr President,

India has supported the UNGA Resolution A/Res/73/40 on the follow-up to the 2013 High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, which was put forward by NAM and endorsed by a significant majority of UN Member States. The high level of participation at the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament reflects the strong international support for the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

India considers the Conference on Disarmament - the world's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum - as the appropriate forum for commencement of negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, as part of its comprehensive programme of work. Despite best efforts, the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to adopt its Programme of Work, thus unable to realise the will and desire of the international community to make progress on nuclear disarmament.

Further, without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we have supported commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. It will be a significant step towards realization of the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

We believe that increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the progressive de-legitimisation of nuclear weapons, an essential step for their eventual elimination. Aware of the growing risk of inadvertent or accidental or

unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, India has supported steps by all States possessing nuclear weapons to reduce this risk. Acquisition of nuclear weapons or related materials and technologies by terrorists poses a grave danger to security of all States. India has highlighted the need for States taking appropriate measures through its annual resolution in the first committee on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

We hope that this important Event to commemorate the International Day for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons would enhance public awareness and knowledge about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and contribute to international efforts towards achieving the shared goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. India has always been ready to work with other States to achieve this noble goal.

Thank you.