

73rd Sesion of UNGA
First Committee
Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons

INDIA STATEMENT

By

Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray
Hon'ble Member of the Parliament

19 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

2. India has abiding commitment to the goal of nuclear disarmament and we have always played a leading role in the international community's endeavours towards achieving this goal.
3. India was the first country to call for a ban on nuclear testing in 1954 and a non-discriminatory treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as distinct from non-dissemination, in 1965.
4. In 1978, India proposed negotiation of an international convention that would prohibit the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In 1988, India presented the Rajiv Gandhi Action

Plan to the General Assembly that provided a holistic framework for a time-bound commitment for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. India remains committed to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We believe that this goal can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework.

6. It may be recalled that India had presented, in 2007, a Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as contained in CD/1816, which had made a number of proposals, as part of a step-by-step process, which continue to remain relevant.

We, therefore, reiterate our call for:

- i. Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- ii. Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines;
- iii. Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons;
- iv. Negotiation in the CD of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States;
- v. Negotiation in the CD, with the participation of all States possessing nuclear weapons, of a Convention on complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- vi. Negotiation in the CD, with participation of all States possessing nuclear weapons, of a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe.

Mr. Chairman,

7. India, as a responsible nuclear weapon State, has followed a policy of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence, no-first-use of nuclear weapons and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States. We have been prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. Further, we have remained committed to maintaining a unilateral voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

8. As in the past, on behalf of co-sponsors, India will present two draft resolutions under this cluster this year.

9. The first, on a 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons', was first introduced in 1982 and is one of the long-standing resolutions of the First Committee. It reflects our belief that a legally-binding instrument prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons negotiated in Conference of Disarmament with participation of all nuclear weapons possessing states will contribute to the process of the step-by-step de-legitimization of nuclear weapons.

10. The second draft resolution on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' highlights the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons.

11. We request support of esteemed Member States for these two resolutions, which reflect our shared commitment towards the common goal of nuclear disarmament.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.