India, 67th Session of the First Committee, 6 November

EOV on L46

Mr. Chairman, my delegation attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament. We share with the sponsors of L.46 the objective of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and we appreciate their open and inclusive approach in piloting this text. However, Mr. Chairman, my delegation has abstained on L.46 for the following reasons even though we understand and share the aspirations behind the text.

The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge that responsibility. Nuclear disarmament continues to be on the agenda of the CD as a multilateral negotiating forum. We believe that an OEWG established outside of the CD under GA rules of procedure may not lead to productive outcomes in taking forward the multilateral nuclear disarmament agenda with the participation of all relevant countries. We remain to be convinced that the form and manner in which the sponsors propose to take forward such negotiations can credibly advance our common objectives or would not have an adverse impact on the resources available to the established disarmament forums.