L. 36 United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

India remains committed to the goal of global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework. We have stressed the need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. In substantive terms, the resolution falls short of this objective.

India has voted against OP 3 as we cannot accept the call to accede to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State. India’s position on the NPT is well-known. There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. Nuclear weapons are an integral part of India’s national security and will remain so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament.

As India supports the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament, the question of a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons does not arise. We have therefore abstained on OP 11. India has also abstained on OP 20. The concept of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement is applicable only to non-nuclear weapon states, party to the NPT. India has concluded an India-Specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and signed and ratified a Protocol additional to that agreement.

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