L.26: 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 5 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 15. India has also abstained on OP 19. 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.

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the UN, we acknowledge the leading role that Japan, the lead sponsor of this resolution, has played in promoting nuclear disarmament efforts.