

**Statement by Ms. Subhashini Narayanan, Counsellor  
(Disarmament), Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on  
Disarmament, Geneva**

**at the Thematic Debate of the First Committee of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the UN General Assembly, 18 October 2021**

**Mr Chair**

In an age of interdependence, a reformed, reliable, and effective United Nations is a sine qua non in pursuit of disarmament. India is firmly committed to the ideals enshrined in the UN Charter and to multilateralism to achieve them. The framework for UN disarmament machinery laid out by the SSOD-1, consisting of the triad of the CD, the First Committee and the UNDC, continue to be the ideal forums for making meaningful progress on matters of disarmament, international security, and non-proliferation.

**Mr. Chair**

India accords the highest priority to the CD, as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. India is committed to efforts aimed at the Conference to agree on a Programme of Work in fulfilment of its important mandate. Instead of being sceptical on the relevance of the CD and looking for alternate forums to negotiate on disarmament issues, what is really needed is a concrete demonstration of political will and to get down to negotiating legally binding instruments.

## **Mr. Chair**

The UNDC is the universal forum that provides for in-depth consideration of important disarmament issues and for enhancing understanding and consensus. India hopes that the UNDC, will be able to conduct its work next year and make substantive recommendations on the issues on its agenda.

The First Committee, as a platform for Member States to voice their opinions on multilateral approaches to disarmament and international security matters, exemplifies the faith and trust of the international community in the United Nations to foster progress in disarmament.

India calls upon Member States not to politicize the work of the Committee, so that its precious time could be used to determine collective actions in fulfilment of its mandate.

India also values the efforts of the UNIDIR which brings immense value to our work. India believes that the disarmament machinery should function as a composite whole, so that the progress made in one could contribute to and be leveraged by another.

India's annual Disarmament and International Security fellowship demonstrates the high priority we attach to promoting disarmament education. We look forward to further deepening our engagement through our Disarmament for Youth initiative.

## **Mr. Chair**

India has the honour to introduce under this Cluster the resolution on the 'Role of science and technology in the

context of international security and disarmament', which has been adopted by consensus for the last four years and has attracted cosponsors across the regions. India is grateful to the Secretary General for submitting the updated report A/76/182, as mandated by the 2020 resolution.

As a developing country, India is convinced that science and technology is the essential catalyst for economic and social development. We are mindful that rapidly emerging technologies offer tremendous benefits as well as pose potential challenges in view of the possibility of malicious use, including by non-State actors and terrorists.

India strongly believes that international cooperation in the peaceful uses of science and technology should be promoted through relevant means, including technology transfer, sharing of information and exchange of equipment and materials. At the same time, India strongly believes that international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications are effectively regulated, keeping in mind legitimate defense requirements of all States and non-proliferation concerns.

India hopes that Member States would extend their support as in previous years by adopting the resolution by consensus this year.

**Mr. Chair**

While there is increasing reliance on ICT in our daily lives, instances of malicious cyber activity have multiplied, from both State and non-State actors, creating complex challenges

to international peace and security. The world is witnessing the use of ICT to compromise state security through, inter-alia, attacks on critical national infrastructure, disruption of social harmony through radicalization and to foment cross-border terrorism. India would like to underscore the need for Member States to address the implications of the exploitation of technological and digital innovation for terrorism.

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I thank you.