



**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

Statement of

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Disarmament**

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Mr. President,

Thank you for those very kind words. I join others in commending you for the smooth and effective conduct of our work.

Before I make a farewell statement, it is my duty to place on record my Government's position on the nuclear test conducted by DPRK on September 9. In a statement issued the same day, the Ministry of External Affairs noted as a matter of great concern that DPRK had again acted in violation of its international obligations that DPRK itself had endorsed and expressed concern about the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies which had adversely impacted India's national security. In deploring the nuclear test, India called upon DPRK to refrain from such actions which adversely impact peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Mr President,

I am aware that the CD has important business to transact today. I seek your indulgence to allow me to share a few thoughts, as I prepare to leave Geneva for another assignment later this year.

It has been a privilege to be part of India's delegation to this Conference for nine years, the last three as its Permanent Representative. It is an honour I am proud of.

India has been represented in this Council Chamber for over fifty years. This Chamber is witness to the profound ways in which the world has changed during this time, and India's place and role in it.

For all the difficulties the Conference faces today, its significance for my country remains undiminished.

Conceived in the crucible of global aspiration for a permanent disarmament body and dedicated to the goal of greater international security at lower levels of armaments, in particular nuclear weapons, this Conference is the cherished product of the only truly universal international disarmament document.

It would be a folly to cast it aside.

The frustration that has emerged from the stalemate of the Conference is no less than that offered by the immobility of the equatorial doldrums.

This Conference is tasked with reconciling national security of its members and global security for all - disarmament's true democratic dividend - strengthening one and the other and both together.

That the Conference, despite the well-intentioned efforts of many, has been blocked by the security exclusivism of some or a confidence-deficit in others, is unfortunate as it is unworthy of its noble mandate.

Either way, it has been a recipe for a stalemate that has lasted far too long. But this too shall pass.

This Conference is a microcosm of global strategic cross currents, perhaps even more than some bodies of inherited power and privilege elsewhere.

For those of us who attend regularly and listen carefully, the signs are unmistakable.

If global security in this century is to reflect the multi-polarity that underpins it or tame the negatives of technological change that drive it, there is no alternative to multilaterally negotiated instruments.

If we seek multilateral instruments of global relevance that make a real difference on the ground, then there is no alternative to this premier disarmament negotiating forum fulfilling its mandate.

For the sake of global interdependence that is secure and free, if the CD did not exist, we would need to invent one.

The bottom line is clear - this Conference remains available as a forum for those wishing to enhance national security through multilateral legal instruments.

Without a common commitment to this goal, we cannot succeed. With such commitment, we cannot fail.

In the end, it is not so much a question of viability of this Conference as it is a test of whether we see ourselves as responsible members of the international community.

India remains committed to the founding principles and objectives of the CD.

I have benefitted from the cooperation and friendship of many in this Chamber - heads of delegation, their experts, the Secretariat and the interpreters. To all, I express my thanks and deep appreciation. To the Secretary General our warm thanks for his wise counsel.

To my colleague - Siddhartha Nath, who is away fighting India's cause in another land, my gratitude and appreciation, for he is proof of what many of us in this Conference already know - we are better because of our deputies and experts.

Thank you.