



STATEMENT BY MR. S.M. KRISHNA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, AT THE  
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON 'REVITALIZING THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE ON  
DISARMAMENT AND TAKING FORWARD MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT  
NEGOTIATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 24,

**His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,**

**Distinguished colleagues,**

India welcomes the Secretary General's initiative to convene this meeting. We believe that its main purpose is to send a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda. India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The Conference on Disarmament adopted a consensus decision in May 2009 on its Programme of work, which included immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. Such negotiations, which we support, are without prejudice to India's principled position on other agenda items, in particular the priority issue of nuclear disarmament. We share the disappointment expressed here by a number of speakers that the CD has been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. We reaffirm our support for the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, recognized as such by the international community. We also support the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its Programme of work in early 2011.

Mr. Chairman,

India remains committed to the objective and vision of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Action Plan of 1988 for ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. It is a painful reality that this has remained a distant goal, not least due to the continued opposition to negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament. It may be recalled that the Final Document of the First Special session on Disarmament accorded nuclear disarmament the highest priority. We call for intensification of dialogue amongst UN member states for strengthening the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

While it is not possible for this short meeting to deliberate on all issues nor take decisions on the disarmament agenda, the Chair's summary that the UN Secretary General will make at its conclusion, will, we hope, add positive momentum for the disarmament agenda and reaffirm the critical role of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum for achieving our common goals.

Thank you.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)