

International Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo 4-5 March 2013

Statement by Ambassador R.K. Tyagi (India)

Madam Cochairs,

Given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of use of nuclear weapons, India has been unwavering in its support for nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It should be recalled that India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was among the first world leaders to champion the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Madams, India firmly believes that the goal of nuclear disarmament could be achieved by following a step-by-step process under written by a universal commitment, and in an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. Addressing the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament in 1988, India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had proposed an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons free and Nonviolent World Order by attaining the goal of nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. In present times also such an approach remains relevant, to the aim of attaining complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of our planet.

Madams, there is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. While India subscribes to a policy of credible minimum nuclear deterrent, we have espoused the policy of no first-use and

non-use against non-nuclear weapon states, and are prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. India also remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing, and to working with the international community to advance our common objectives of non-proliferation, through strong export controls and multilateral export control regimes.

Madams, India has contributed actively to the Nuclear Security Summit process launched by President Obama in 2010. India's resolution in the UNGA on addressing the threat of WMD terrorism has received consensus support since it was tabled in 2002. Similarly, the two India sponsored resolutions viz. on **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons**; and on **Reducing Nuclear Danger**, have received support from a majority of UN member states in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. However, some member states, particularly members of military alliances with nuclear doctrines envisaging the first use of nuclear weapons, have been opposing them.

Madam Cochairs, we have also noted the presentation by one of the panelists on consequences of a possible nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan. It would be wrong to believe that consequences of nuclear use in one part of the world will be different from use in another part of the world. It is relevant to remember in this context that India has a no first use policy and is supportive of global restraints on use of nuclear weapons including a global no –first use treaty. We also support a convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons. It will be a wrong inference to draw from such a case study that some nuclear weapons are safer and more useful than others; and that consequences can be put in neat compartments ignoring the catastrophic consequences of their use. No case study should, advertently or inadvertently undercut the objective of non-

discriminatory and global elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner. All nuclear weapons, irrespective of their origin, deployment or possessing State, pose the same horrible danger to our planet, and hence the need for everyone to work together for achieving the goal of their total and irreversible elimination.

Madam Cochairs, hoping that this conference will lend support for the established disarmament machinery under the UN, I join all present here as well as many others outside this conference hall, in complementing the Norwegian government for organizing it.