

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS,**

September 26, 2016

INDIA STATEMENT

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Vice Minister

Mr. Chairman,

It is a matter of satisfaction that we are marking September 26, 2016 as the International Day for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons. India associates itself with the NAM Declaration on the commemoration of this day.

2. India has been unwavering in its support for universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and other WMDs consistent with the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament by the Final Document of SSOD-I.

3. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

4. India supported the UNGA Resolutions A/Res/68/32, A/Res/69/58 and A/Res/70/34 on the follow-up to the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, which were put forward by NAM and endorsed by a significant majority of UN Member States. The high level of participation at the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, and in the events commemorating the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons last year as well as today's event, reflects the strong international support for the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons. India has joined the call made by the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament calling for the Conference to commence negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention pursuant to UNGA resolution 68/32. The position of the Group of 21 is reflected in its Working Paper, CD/2067 dated August 3, 2016.

5. India considers the Conference on Disarmament - the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum - as the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on Nuclear Disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. We regret that the Conference was not able to take forward India's proposal, supported by the

UNGA, for the negotiation of a Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons nor the NAM proposal, supported by the G21, for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

6. We hope that this important event to commemorate the International Day for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons would enhance public awareness and knowledge about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. India will work with all Member States to take forward international efforts to achieve this noble goal.
