

L.42 : Japan and Australia : A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Explanation of vote after the vote by Mr. Rakesh Sood,
Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament.**

October 23, 2002.

Mr. Chairman,

It is well known that India has an unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament and the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons globally. However, the instrument purported to have been intended to achieve these objectives, the Non Proliferation Treaty, does not seem to have been effective – as has been stated in this forum several times in this Session already. India would reiterate that it is necessary to recognise this and, instead, take a path beyond the framework of the NPT- towards equal and legitimate security for all through global disarmament.

As we have explained in earlier instances as well, we find that the resolution is based on NPT philosophy which makes it flawed as a vehicle for the stated objective. Further, it welcomes the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference (PP 7) – which is not, in our view, a balanced document. The call for a moratorium on the production of fissile material in OP 3 (b) indicates a lack of responsiveness to reality. The call for universality of the NPT in OP 1, is unconvincing.

Therefore, while we agree with the basic objective of the resolution, that is the global elimination of nuclear weapons, India cannot support the resolution as a whole because of its many elements that are based on a flawed approach, and therefore, remain unacceptable. Therefore, India has cast a negative vote on the resolution as a whole

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