## L.24 : Uzbekistan : Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia

Explanation of Vote after the vote by Mr. Rakesh Sood, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament October 25, 2002

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has supported / joined the consensus on the resolution contained in L.24 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia". India takes note that the proposal for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia is supported by all the States of the region. This conforms to the requirement that such arrangements should be freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. We are particularly pleased that the efforts of the Central Asian States, with which India historically enjoys close and friendly ties, is getting the international support that they deserve. India fully respects the choice made by the Central Asian States - and is prepared to extend all possible support and commitment, in response to an expressed need , for the early realization of a nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia.

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