

L.34 : Brazil and New Zealand :“ Nuclear –weapon free southern hemisphere and adjacent Areas.

Explanation of vote by Mr. Rakesh Sood,Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament,October 21, 2002

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has requested the floor to explain our vote on OP 3 of the resolution for a Nuclear weapon free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas . This proposal runs counter to the well established principles for the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones – that these zones must be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region where the zone is desired to be established. The contradiction in OP 3 is even starker when seen in the context of current realities . A proposal for a NWFZ in South Asia , logically, has no more validity than NWFZs in East Asia , Western Europe or North America. Given the distortions and contradictions in OP 3, we have voted against this paragraph –also against the retention of the last three words in the same paragraph – and have abstained on the resolution as a whole

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