L.34/Rev1 Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September – Revitalizing the work of the CD and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

India has joined the consensus on the adoption without a vote of L.34/Rev1 on follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September. India’s External Affairs Minister had participated in the High Level Meeting where he welcomed this initiative of the Secretary General. He also said that the main purpose of the meeting is to send a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman, while we share the widespread disappointment that we have been prevented from commencing negotiations in the CD, we do not believe that the impasse stems from the disarmament machinery per se or existing rules of procedures. In fact the participation at Ministerial level of a large number of countries was demonstration of support for the role of the CD as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

With a view to improving the text of the resolution, India had suggested to the sponsors the inclusion of a reference to the Final Document of SSOD-I adopted by consensus. We are disappointed that the sponsors have not been able to include this reference in the text. The current disarmament machinery owes its origin to SSOD-I and it would have been logical to both recall and reaffirm that fact.

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