**L. 41* United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons**

India remains committed to the goal of global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework. We have stressed the need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. In substantive terms, the resolution falls short of this objective.

India has voted against OP 2 as we cannot accept the call to accede to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State. India’s position on the NPT is well-known. There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. Nuclear weapons are an integral part of India’s national security and will remain so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament.

Consistent with our position on the CTBT, India has abstained on OP 8. As India supports the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament, the question of a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons does not arise. We have therefore abstained on OP 9. India has abstained on OP 15. The concept of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement is applicable only to non-nuclear weapon states, party to the NPT. India has concluded an India-Specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and a Protocol additional to that agreement.

*October 26, 2011*