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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT  
GENEVA**

**STATEMENT BY  
AMBASSADOR JAYANT PRASAD**

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

**GENEVA: 13 FEBRUARY 2007**

Mr. President,

First, allow me to say that we are most happy to see you in the chair. Over the past week, in accordance with the organisational framework for the first part of the 2007 Session of the Conference on Disarmament, we have undertaken useful discussions on agenda items 1 and 2, both in the plenary held on 6<sup>th</sup> February and, thereafter, in six informal meetings. In this connection, I should like to express my delegation's appreciation for the initiative taken by the collective presidencies of the Conference for this year. In particular, we would like to compliment Ambassador MTSALL, as the first and incumbent President. The three distinguished Coordinators who have presided over the informal meetings on agenda items 1, 2 and 3, Ambassador STROMMEN, Ambassador TREZZA, and Ambassador MEYER also deserve our commendation for conducting the respective proceedings in an exemplary way, which is a good augury for the work of the Conference this year.

2. The discussions last week have reflected the resolve of UN Member States, contained in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the UN Millennium Declaration, that nuclear disarmament is the most critical issue on the global disarmament agenda and that our ultimate goal is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

3. While maintaining a credible minimum nuclear deterrent, India continues to be committed to the goal of nuclear weapon free world, through global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India's responsible nuclear doctrine is based on no first use and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons States. The doctrine also reaffirms India's readiness to join multilateral negotiations for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. India has continued to observe a moratorium on nuclear explosive tests. We are ready to participate in negotiations, in the Conference, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

4. During the course of the informal discussions, we have spelt out India's specific proposals to build a consensus that strengthens the ability of the international community to move towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. The proposals presented have already been reflected in the non-paper on agenda item 1, compiled by Ambassador Strommen, that lists and clusters all concrete proposals for substantive issues that require more focussed attention during the second part of the annual session, with a view to commencement of negotiations.

5. In order to facilitate further consideration of practical steps for the progressive and systematic efforts to attain the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the nuclear war, I am separately requesting the Conference secretariat to circulate to members of the Conference the text of India's working paper on nuclear disarmament presented on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the First Committee of the General Assembly at its 61<sup>st</sup> Session. This will facilitate the further discussions on agenda items 1 and 2 in the forthcoming meetings of the Conference.

6. We have gained from the format of the discussions, which have been held mostly in an informal setting. This has allowed for a freer exchange of ideas, besides providing greater clarity on the agenda issues that lie before us. India will remain engaged, together with other delegations, in seeking ways to begin substantive work on all principal issues on the agenda of the Conference in a manner that takes into account the concerns and priorities of its constituents and secures their support. We are hopeful that the recommendations and proposals presented by the Member States and our further deliberations will contribute to an agreement on the programme of work of the Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.