Mr. President,

Like other colleagues let me thank you for this opportunity to state our views on Negative Security Assurances, which has been on the Agenda of the Conference since 1979. SSOD-I called upon nuclear weapon states to take steps to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We believe that non-nuclear weapon states have a legitimate right to be assured against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons pose the gravest danger to humanity and to international peace and stability and the best assurance against their use or threat of use is their complete elimination. India has been consistent in its support for global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. In the absence of global nuclear disarmament, as part of our doctrine of credible minimum nuclear deterrence, we have espoused the policy of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. We are prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements.

In the current international climate there is greater support for progressive steps for de-legitimization of nuclear weapons which we believe is essential for achieving the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In our view de-legitimization will not make nuclear weapons disappear in an instant; it will rather be a process that would help ease the path towards achieving global zero. Measures to reduce nuclear danger arising from accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraint on the use of nuclear weapons are pertinent in this regard.
India’s resolutions in the First Committee give expression to some ideas on reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and their de-legitimization. For over three decades, the First Committee has voted in favour of a resolution sponsored by India calling on this Conference to negotiate a Convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons. India’s resolution in the First Committee on reducing nuclear danger is also supported by a large number of States. India has in its Working Paper CD/1816 also suggested specific measures including a global No First Use agreement.

Mr. President,

As part of the G-21, India has supported the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states as a matter of priority. The negotiation of such an instrument in the CD will complement other measures to reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and improve the international climate for promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. We remain committed to work with other CD members towards the objective of the establishment of a subsidiary body to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.