

**Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of
India to the CD, on Agenda items 5 & 6 of the CD, Geneva,
May 14, 2013**

Mr. President, let me begin by appreciating your efforts in continuing discussions on all agenda items of the CD as well as your ongoing consultations with the aim of finding consensus on a Programme of Work for the 2013 session of the CD. Let me also welcome our colleagues Ambassador Ismail from Iraq and Ambassador Hajnocz from Austria.

Mr. President, I would like to reiterate briefly India's position on agenda items 5 & 6. Agenda Item 5 i.e. "New types of WMDs and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons" has a broad scope, but I would like to focus on radiological weapons and the threat of terrorists acquiring WMDs. The issue of radiological weapons has been on the agenda of the Conference since 1979 and was considered in working groups during 1980-83 and in Ad Hoc committees during 1984-1992. The international community has taken a number of measures to protect and secure nuclear and radiological materials.

The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism makes unlawful possession of radioactive material an offence and enjoins States Parties to adopt measures to establish as criminal acts the offences set forth in the Convention. The IAEA has taken steps to improve the regulatory framework for nuclear security. The Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material has been broadened and strengthened, as also the Code of Conduct for Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and Nuclear Security Summit have also made important contributions on this topic.

India has participated in and contributed to international efforts related to nuclear security. India hosted a Sherpa Meeting of the Nuclear Security Summit in January 2012 and a 1540 workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security in November 2012. We have contributed USD 1 million to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund. We look forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security to be organized by IAEA in July 2013 and hope that it would strengthen coordination and complementarity among various nuclear security activities.

As a victim of terrorism, India is fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to terrorists and non-state actors could entail. India has taken the lead since 2002 in sponsoring the resolution "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs" in the General Assembly. This consensus resolution highlights the concerns of the international community with regard to WMD terrorism and calls upon all Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring WMDs. The international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors, including through clandestine proliferation networks.

We believe that the CD should continue consideration of its Agenda Item 5 with a view to achieving one or more international instruments that would address the threat posed by new types of WMDs, including radiological weapons.

On Agenda Item 6 i.e. "Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament", we note that SSOD-I stressed the need to prepare through agreed procedures a comprehensive programme of disarmament. That programme passing through all the necessary stages should lead to general and complete disarmament under effective and international control, as the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament.

We believe that the intent of this agenda item is to elaborate a programme which would place specific measures relating to disarmament into a carefully considered plan, setting out objectives, priorities and timeframes with a view to disarmament being achieved on a progressive basis. A comprehensive programme would consider not only nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority of the international community, but also other weapons and weapon systems which are crucial for maintaining international peace and security.

It is of utmost importance that the principles of a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament should be universally applicable and relevant. In this regard, the CD would play an important role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum with the mandate to negotiate legally binding instruments of global applicability. Through this the central role and primary responsibility of the UN in the sphere of disarmament in accordance with its Charter would be strengthened.

Thank you.