

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANUPAM RAY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 80th SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 15, 2025

Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the members of the bureau on your being elected to lead this Committee's work. My delegation assures you of our fullest support and cooperation.

India does not believe that solutions can be found through war and conflict.

India stands for peace in the Middle East through dialogue and diplomacy. We support the Gaza peace plan of President Trump and appreciate Egypt and Qatar for their valuable roles in achieving this and advancing the path to peace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed the release of all the hostages after more than two years of captivity. We hope that this will bring lasting peace in the region.

India believes that the collective strength of humanity should be deployed for the good of all and to promote human-centric globalization. The United Nations, although currently in a state of crisis, and work of this Committee, continues to play a key role in this vision.

Chair,

India's support for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is consistent with the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament agreed by consensus in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. As a nuclear-weapon state, our commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament remains undiminished. This goal can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory.

Pending the global elimination of nuclear weapons, India has put forward a number of proposals for reducing, in all its aspects, nuclear risks and dangers in the document CD/1816 submitted to the Conference on Disarmament.

As a responsible nuclear-weapon State, India is committed, per its nuclear doctrine, to a policy of credible minimum deterrence, with the posture of No-First Use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon States.

Without diminishing the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, India supports the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

Chair,

India is a major space faring nation and has vital developmental and security interests in Outer Space. A vibrant and dynamic Indian industry is poised to make significant breakthroughs including Gaganyaan, a human space flight program and a Bhartiya Antariksh Station or Indian Space Station.

India believes that Outer Space belongs to all of us. It should be an arena for cooperation and not conflict.

India supports the negotiation of a LBI on PAROS at the Conference on Disarmament. India has engaged constructively with the OEWG on Reducing Space Threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors. India recognizes that this approach has its merits.

We take positive note of the progress made by the OEWG with a combined mandate in respect of its agenda and program of work.

Chair,

This Committee, and the Disarmament Machinery of which it is a part, are actively engaged in considering issues related to emerging technologies.

We welcome the deliberations in the Disarmament Commission in its current cycle on the issue of common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security.

India believes that emerging technologies can have transformational effects on reducing poverty and improving the lives of our people. AI has a particular promise for development and India's approach is to harness it responsibly for human welfare.

Inclusion and impact will be the watch words for the AI Summit that India will host in 2026.

We acknowledge that the use of emerging technologies in the military domain poses legal and ethical questions. We are committed to addressing these challenges through national and international initiatives.

India is committed to the responsible use of AI in the military domain. India has developed a domestic framework for Evaluating Trustworthy AI in the defense sector to address the complex challenges and mitigate risks posed by modern AI technologies centered on five key principles: (i) Reliability and robustness; (ii) Safety and security; (iii) Transparency; (iv) Fairness; and (v) Privacy.

India acknowledges that the use of AI in nuclear command and control (NC3) raises questions. India's position is that the decision to use nuclear weapons would be taken by humans.

India welcomes the significant progress made by the GGE. India has submitted a working paper to the GGE on LAWS outlining its national position. India supports the prohibition of the use of fully autonomous LAWS which cannot be used in compliance with IHL. For all other LAWS, the GGE should identify measures for appropriate regulations to ensure that they are used in accordance with IHL.

India is committed to promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment. Cyberspace is facing an increasing number of challenges in the form of threats and its misuse for criminal and terrorist purposes.

India welcomes the development of a dedicated Global ICT Security Cooperation and Capacity-Building Portal, anchored at the United Nations, as a global platform for international cooperation and coordination amongst Member States on security of cyber infrastructure and improving cyber capabilities.

Chair,

India accords great importance to the multilateral norm established by Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

On the 50th anniversary of the BWC, India will organize an international conference on “50 years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South” on December 1-2 in New Delhi.

Chair,

Illicit transfers of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, in particular to terrorists and non-state actors is an area of grave concern for India.

India engaged meaningfully in the formulation of Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management; and has contributed actively to the review of International Technical Ammunition Guidelines as a member of the Technical Review Board.

Chair,

My delegation is pleased to note that the Conference on Disarmament was able to adopt a decision on its Work for the second year in succession and thrice in the last four years.

Chair,

Since this is a debate, I will take the opportunity to respond to the delegation of Pakistan on what it has said about India.

There is an old saying that an Ambassador is an honest man sent abroad to lie for his country. I have always held this to be untrue. My distinguished Pakistani colleague has however established that there is substance in this saying. He is a very good and capable man, but his statement is full of lies.

India has a No First Use doctrine. India will not use its nuclear weapons first. If there is any nuclear escalation it will be by Pakistan. Pakistan can make an enormous contribution to international peace and security by adopting a No First Use policy.

I would also like to mention that bilateral nuclear understandings and CBMs remain in place.

My distinguished colleague has omitted mentioning that India has a nuclear-armed neighbor that is the epicenter of global terrorism. India will firmly face up to threats, including state sponsored cross border terrorism under a nuclear overhang.

For decades now, major international terror attacks are traced back to that one country. The UNs designated lists of terrorists are replete with its nationals. When nations openly declare terrorism as state policy, when terror hubs operate on an industrial scale, when terrorists are openly glorified, then such actions will be unequivocally condemned and dealt with.

My distinguished colleague has also not mentioned that Pakistan has sought bailouts from IMF two dozen times. Pakistan is using your money, our money, to export terrorism and instability. As far as I know these are not exports that balance current and capital account deficit. I invite this committee to contemplate the consequences upon international peace and security of such a country in a parlous financial condition possessing nuclear weapons.

My very good colleague also has not informed this Committee that it is the Pakistan military that called our military directly on May 10 and pleaded for a cessation of fighting after threatening more attacks until a day earlier.

India will not waste the time of this committee to respond to any further attempts by Pakistan to mislead it.

Chair,

India attaches importance to disarmament education. The 5th edition of the fully funded Annual Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Program was held in January this year.

Young diplomats from 33 countries attended the course earlier this year.

Chair,

India will table 4 draft resolutions in the First Committee this year.

These well-known resolutions are on: 1. 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons', 2. 'Reducing Nuclear Danger', 3. 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring WMDs' and 4. 'Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament'.

Our resolutions have highlighted crucial issues pertaining to disarmament and international security, which also reflect our fundamental beliefs. They have enjoyed wide support of the UN membership, and we request continued support.

I thank you.
