



**STATEMENT BY MR. SURESH KURUP, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESOLUTIONS 'CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS' AND 'REDUCING NUCLEAR DANGER' IN THE
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 11, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

I have taken the floor to introduce two resolutions tabled by India under Cluster I.

I have the honour, first, to introduce the draft resolution on "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons," co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Sudan, Vietnam, Zambia, and India.

The resolution underlines that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind.

The last Non-aligned Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in 2003 had underlined the danger to humanity derived from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

The threat of use of nuclear weapons by States and non-State actors will remain so long as certain States claim an exclusive right to possess nuclear weapons in perpetuity and until such time as the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are considered justified.

We believe that States should reorient their nuclear doctrines through a commitment to no-first-use and non-use of nuclear weapons, backed by a legally binding agreement to that effect. This should be more feasible today, when major powers have more cooperative exchanges among themselves than in 1982, when this idea was first mooted.

In its historic advisory opinion of 1996, the International Court of Justice made international humanitarian law applicable to the use of nuclear weapons. The ICJ

expressed the conviction that a multilateral agreement prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons would strengthen international security and create a climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We require taking decisive steps, collectively, to support a legally binding instrument prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons as an interim measure until we reach agreement on a step-by-step process for the elimination of nuclear weapons. This will serve to diminish the salience of nuclear weapons in maintaining security, and contribute to changes in doctrines, policies, attitudes and institutions required to usher in a nuclear weapons free and non-violent world.

The operative part of the resolution reiterates the call to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations to reach agreement on an international convention on prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

A positive vote for this resolution will be a vote by the international community in favour of a decisive step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Now, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on "Reducing Nuclear Danger," co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cuba, Fiji, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Sudan, Vietnam, Zambia, and India.

The resolution offers modest and pragmatic proposals for the safety and security of mankind. It calls for a review of nuclear doctrines, as also immediate steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The very real possibility of systems and components falling into the hands of non-State actors has aggravated current dangers. Several strategic experts have identified one or other of the measures proposed in this resolution as feasible in the present circumstances, including taking off nuclear forces from a hair-trigger posture to reduce their alert status.

The entire membership of the United Nations in 1978 had agreed by consensus that nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization. The international community had also agreed that effective measures of nuclear disarmament and prevention of nuclear war have the highest priority. More than a decade and a half since the end of the Cold War, the concept of mutually assured destruction is universally considered untenable. The dictum that a nuclear war can never be won, and must never be fought, is now accepted as conventional wisdom. Measures for reducing nuclear dangers are, therefore, an essential prerequisite for safeguarding our collective security interests, pending nuclear disarmament.

The resolution refers to the seven recommendations of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters of 2001 that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, including promotion of dialogue on cooperative security, de-alerting of nuclear weapons,

review of nuclear doctrines, further reduction of tactical nuclear weapons, increasing transparency, creating a conducive climate for disarmament through educational and training programmes, and preparing for a major international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear danger.

A positive vote for this resolution will be a reaffirmation by the international community to take decisive steps towards reducing nuclear danger.

I thank you for your attention.

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