



INDIA भारत

Statement by

Ambassador Tanmaya Lal
Deputy Permanent Representative

at

Open Debate on

**'Preventing Catastrophe - A Global Agenda for stopping the
proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by non-State Actors'**

15 December 2016

Mr. President,

Thank you for organising this debate on an issue of serious concern for the international community. We also thank the briefers for their very significant inputs.

Mr. President,

2. We welcome the adoption of this UNSC resolution today that aims to enhance the 1540 architecture by promoting its full implementation through increased cooperation, assistance, transparency and outreach mechanisms.

3. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-state actors continues to constitute one of the biggest and most serious threats to international peace and security today.

4. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, India is cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that the transfer of WMDs to non-State actors and terrorists could entail.

5. It is imperative that the international community come together to eliminate the risks related to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors.

Mr. President,

6. On its part, India is fully conscious of the responsibilities that come with the possession of advanced technologies, and is committed to maintaining effective law based controls to prevent the transfer of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist activities and to maintain effective domestic controls to prevent WMD proliferation.

7. India has over the years enacted effective laws and regulations and has institutionalized an array of administrative mechanisms to prohibit WMD access to non-State actors and terrorists. After the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), India took additional steps to further strengthen its existing legislative and regulatory mechanism for exercising control over WMDs and their means of delivery.

Mr. President,

8. Meeting new proliferation challenges requires new approaches for evolving a more cooperative and consensual international security order that effectively addresses genuine proliferation concerns and differentiates between responsible States whose actions strengthen non-proliferation and those that weaken the realization of its objectives.

9. India is party to all the 13 universal instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State's commitments to combat international terrorism. India welcomes the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) this year. Alongside the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the Amended CPPNM would strengthen the global nuclear security architecture and enhance international cooperation and coordination.

10. As we continue efforts to achieve universal adherence and reporting to these instruments, we must not forget the urgent task of closing out negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, which has been under discussion since 1996. Such delay hints at a lack of collective will on an existentialist issue that has become the most serious threat to world peace since 1945.

Mr. President,

11. India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) has steadily strengthened its portfolio of programmes and activities with a particular focus on nuclear security and has conducted more than 30 international and regional programmes involving more than 300 participants from around 30 countries.

12. In February 2017 India will host the Implementation & Assessment Group (IAG) meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in New Delhi.

Mr. President,

13. India had supported the general objectives of UNSCR 1540. It is in line with the UNGA resolution on 'Measures to prevent terrorists from

gaining access to WMD' tabled by India and adopted by consensus every year since it was first introduced in 2002, and now co-sponsored by more than 70 member states. The wide support reflects the continuing concerns of the international community with respect to the risks posed by terrorists gaining access to WMDs and sensitive materials and technologies. The resolution enumerates a number of measures at the national and international level to address this threat.

Mr. President,

14. India has always expressed its readiness to offer assistance to other countries in capacity building and in fulfilling their obligations under UNSCR 1540 and has organized several regional workshops in this regard.

15. The 1540 resolution has contributed to greater awareness amongst States on the need for effective measures at the national level to prevent terrorists and non-state actors gaining access to sensitive materials and technologies. Reporting by States of their implementation measures facilitates the overview of the implementation by the 1540 Committee.

16. Assistance and cooperation for States requesting such assistance is a key element of the implementation process. Such assistance programmes should be suited to the specific national or regional requirements.

17. We welcome the focus in today's resolution on enhanced cooperation with other terrorist sanction regimes and hope this will lead to strengthening of international cooperation and preventive mechanisms.

Mr. President,

18. India has contributed to international efforts in enhancing nuclear safety and security standards through various initiatives of the UN. The international community should continue to exercise utmost vigilance against terrorist groups gaining access to WMDs and related materials and technologies.

Thank You Mr. President,