Submission by India pursuant to OP5 of UN GA Resolution 70/36
(Measures to Prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction)

Full Submission

1. India has co-sponsored resolution A/Res/70/36 “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” to highlight the concerns of the international community with regard to WMD terrorism. International response to this threat needs to be at national, multilateral and global levels. India expresses satisfaction that this resolution has been adopted by the UNGA without a vote and supports the continued implementation of this resolution.

2. India recognizes that the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery is a major challenge facing the international community and has supported global efforts for preventing WMD proliferation. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear. 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. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or curbing its linkages with WMD.

3. India has taken steps to prohibit access of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists and non-state actors through measures at the national level as well as participation in international cooperative efforts. India has in place a well-established, stringent and effective export control system based on legislation, regulations and a control list of sensitive materials, equipment and technologies consistent with highest international standards. With a view to supplement and complement the existing legislations, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act was enacted in 2005. It provides an integrated and over-arching legislation on prohibiting unlawful activities in relation to weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials, equipment and technologies. In 2010, India enacted amendments to the Foreign Trade Act, 1992 to further strengthen the national export control system. India is committed to maintaining effective national export controls and is prepared to make its contribution as a full member of the respective multilateral export control regimes.

4. India supports enhanced international cooperation, including through the UN, IAEA, OPCW and other relevant forums to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs. India participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and contributed to the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process. We welcome the outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington on March 31-April 1 2016. We see the NSS process as aimed at
building pragmatic and purposeful frameworks setting benchmarks and standards and fostering confidence in international cooperation to supplement and not substitute the central role of existing multilateral institutions such as the IAEA. India believes that the primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behavior as well as sustained and effective international cooperation. All states should scrupulously abide by their international obligations. India published a handbook on “Nuclear Security in India” in March 2014, which was updated which was updated in at NSS 2016 as India’s National Progress Report.

5. India has made good progress on setting up a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership which will cooperate with the IAEA and other foreign partners. India has contributed 1 million US dollars to the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Fund for 2012-13 and announced a further contribution of US$ 1 million at NSS 2016. India has submitted its reports and updates to the Committee set up pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 1540. An Indian expert participated in the work of the 1540 Committee between 2007 and 2009. India has also expressed readiness to offer assistance to other countries in capacity building and in fulfilling their obligations under UNSC Resolution 1540. In April 2011, India supported the UN Security Council Resolution 1977 for extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years.

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