The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York and has the honour to convey the submission by India pursuant to OP3 of UNGA Resolution 70/39 (Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices) as given below:

"India participated in the GGE on FMCT established pursuant to the UNGA resolution 67/53. India welcomes the consensus GGE Report which was circulated in the Conference on Disarmament as CD/2023. The GGE Report underlines the Treaty and its negotiation in the CD remains a priority enjoying broad international support and that CD 1299 and the mandate contained therein remains the most suitable basis on which future negotiations should commence. In our view, this was the most significant conclusion of the GGE. At the time of the adoption of the resolution 67/53, India had stated that the work of the GGE amounted to neither pre-negotiations nor negotiations on an FMCT, which should take place in the CD on the basis of the agreed mandate. The GGE Report is the result of a most thorough inter-governmental assessment of FMCT in recent years, as it brought together Governmental experts from 25 countries who brought to bear varied but enriching perspectives on various aspects of a future treaty, thus deepening our understanding of its many complexities. The Report is a valuable reference and deserves in-depth consideration and examination even though it does not bind the hands of future negotiators and is without prejudice to national positions. India hopes that the GGE report will impart momentum for the commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD.

2. India’s position on FMCT is clear. Without prejudice to the priority India attaches to nuclear disarmament, India supports the negotiation in the CD of a universal, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT that meets India’s national security interests. India is a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the international community and will approach FMCT negotiations as such.
3. India was one of the original co-sponsors of the UNGA resolution 48/75L adopted by consensus in 1993 which envisaged FMCT as a significant contribution to non-proliferation in all its aspects. India joined consensus on the establishment of an Ad hoc Committee on an FMCT in the CD in 1995 and then again in 1998. Similarly, India did not stand in the way of consensus on CD/1864 which provided inter alia for establishment of a Working Group to negotiate an FMCT and was prepared to go along even with the proposal made by Mexico as CD President in CD 2014 in February 2015.

4. UNGA Resolution 48/75 L reflected with clarity the common understanding of the basic objective of the treaty. The mandate for the proposed treaty was explicitly reflected in this resolution and reconfirmed by the Shannon Report in CD/1299 i.e. to “negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. This mandate was also reaffirmed by the CD in 1998 and 2009 in its consensus decisions and reiterated in resolutions on FMCT in the UNGA. India does not favour reopening this mandate which offers the best prospects for commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD.

6. India’s support for FMCT negotiations in the CD is consistent with its interest in strengthening the global non-proliferation regime that would add a measure of strategic predictability and a baseline for future global nuclear disarmament efforts. Given this objective and given the CD’s vocation, it is essential that all relevant countries participate in these negotiations in the CD and contribute to its successful outcome."


United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
New York
[Attn: Ms. Jenny Fuchs]