Delegation from the Republic of India
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the General Assembly (GA) are The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. As a founding member of the United Nations (UN), the Republic of India (India) is strongly committed to supporting the goal of worldwide peace and security and sees international cooperation as of utmost importance to its achievement.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

With the frequent emergence of new technologies and the ongoing development of existing ones, the topic of the role these technologies play in international security and disarmament is one that requires constant adjustment. While technological innovations bring along a number of benefits in all kinds of fields, some of them find military applications or can be repurposed for malicious intent. In the future, emerging technologies could lower the threshold for armed conflicts caused by growing possibilities of casualty-free warfare for one side and hinder escalation control measures due to an accelerated pace of conflicts. Although a lot of steps have already been taken by the GA and other UN bodies, there are several emerging technologies that still lack an overarching framework. Due to its important role in global interconnectedness this issue affects every single member state and therefore particularly relies on international cooperation to ensure security and disarmament on an international level.

To support the restriction of the use of specific kinds of weapons that are considered to cause unjustifiable or unnecessary injuries to combatants or civilians, the Republic of India signed and ratified the 1983 *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* and all its protocols, which cover some fields of materials technologies. In view of the need of an international policy on cybersecurity India has supported GA resolution 64/211 in 2009, which proposes steps for member states to take towards protecting critical information infrastructures. Consequently, India included several of the resolution's proposals in its National Cyber Security Policy 2013, such as the identification of a government agency responsible for incident management. As a space faring nation, India is especially committed to the promotion of the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space and ratified the 1967 *Outer Space Treaty*, which bans the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space.

In view of the tremendous impact that nuclear weapons can have on international security the Republic of India stays committed to promoting the establishment of a convention on the elimination and banning of the production of these weapons in continuation of the efforts already made together with the Non-Aligned-Movement and like-minded member states. India believes that the Conference on Disarmament is the adequate forum to negotiate the development of a global and non-discriminatory comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, based on a trust- and confidence-building dialogue between all states, especially the ones in possession of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, India acknowledges the growing importance of information technologies and believes that due to the global interconnectedness of this matter an international strategy on cybersecurity will be indispensable. To enhance the possibilities of tackling this very broad and multidimensional issue India proposes the establishment of a UN Cybersecurity Agency, reporting to the GA, which works for the safe and peaceful uses of cyberspace and creates strategies for a resolution and crisis management. Considering the issue's far-reaching relevance, the process of developing such an agency should include various stakeholders with special focus on cooperation with technology industries as well as the International Criminal Police Organization to create measures to prevent global cybercriminal actions.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN system

The conditions of accountability and transparency are crucial to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in actions taken by the UN and use of finances within the UN system and thus are important to reach the goals of security and development. While some steps have been taken by putting into place mechanisms and policies against corruption and establishing oversight bodies to monitor progress and give recommendations to several UN bodies, there are still programs within the UN system that are being rated as lacking efficiency. Even when oversight bodies provide necessary information to hold UN bodies or programs and its staff accountable, change is being hindered by the lack of enforcement capacity often caused by the fear of negative consequences. As one of the main contributors to the UN

regular budget it is of India's greatest interest to promote a condition in which contributions from member states contribute to the goals of the UN in an effective and efficient way.

By supporting GA resolution 41/213 in 1986 on the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the UN, India participated in smoothing the way for the culture of consensus in the 5th committee of the GA, which, consequently, plays an important role in promoting transparency and accountability efficiently and effectively. This led to the unanimous establishment of several oversight bodies working to ensure accountability and transparency within the UN system, such as the Office of Internal Oversight Services, created by GA resolution 48/218B in 1994 and authorized to assist the Secretary-General with internal accountability measures. To show commitment to its 'zero tolerance' approach towards corruption, India ratified the 2003 *United Nations Convention against Corruption* on promoting integrity and accountability of public affairs and measures to prevent and combat corruption. In line with the convention's call to provide effective protection from potential retaliation for witnesses, India established, among other programs, the *Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011*, which constitutes a mechanism of protected disclosure.

To improve accountability and transparency across the entire UN system, India encourages other UN bodies to establish systematic and comprehensive self-evaluation activities to hold themselves accountable, following, amongst others, the example of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Insights from these self-evaluations cannot only be of value to the body itself to assess the progress of its work, they can also be used in cooperation with the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN system (JIU) to receive recommendations on promoting accountability. Having in mind the importance of an efficient management of evaluation and recommendation processes, India furthermore encourages the JIU to hold an annual conference, taking place on International Anti-Corruption Day, where internal oversight bodies, administrative departments of UN bodies with self-evaluation mechanisms and member states with expertise from their government's experience can share best practices, especially in regard to increasing the use of information technology in administrative tasks to restrict opportunities of corruption and improve accountability.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women

Despite significant progress that has been achieved in many member states, there are still immense challenges to face with 7 out of 10 women stating to have experienced physical or sexual violence at some time. Apart from being a fundamental human rights violation still occurring all over the world in all kinds of situations, gender-based discrimination including physical violence and mental abuse against women represent an obstacle to local and global development. As long as resources are needed to eliminate violence against women and providing care and shelter to those affected, these resources cannot contribute to economic growth and therefore hinder a sustainable development, as specified in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on achieving gender equality.

Following the guiding belief that raising awareness for the need of gender equality by promoting women's rights in the first place is crucial to end all forms of violence against women, India ratified the 1948 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. Concurrent with supporting GA resolution 67/144 calling on member states to take measures to protect women against all forms of violence, India established the *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005* which provides a definition of "domestic violence" and presents protection mechanisms for affected women. In the light of the goal to achieve a sustainable development, especially SDG 5 on gender equality and its call to empower women, India's Ministry of Women & Child Development launched the "Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women", which aims to provide women with skills and competencies related to employability and entrepreneurship.

Seeing the positive outcome of training programs towards empowering women on a national level, India encourages other member states to establish training and employment programs in their country with a special focus on the need of women in rural areas in collaboration with local NGOs specialized in the field. To ensure the effectiveness of education for the girl child, India furthermore encourages member states to increase national funding of education systems with contributions especially designated to promote literacy in remote and low literacy areas and to establish in-school programs with both boys and girls participating to inform them about girls' rights and the importance of gender equality.