

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

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All; Combating Human Trafficking. Aware of the importance of the GA as a platform for the international collaboration and exchange of ideas, the Republic of India is deeply committed to work for these fundamental goals of the UN, such as peace and security. The Republic of India hopes that with the help of international cooperation solutions can be found to all three problems mentioned, since India is highly affected by all three problems and is dependent on international aid.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

“In a world populated by states producing and deploying nuclear weapons, India’s strategic autonomy must be safeguarded. However, we must not forget that, despite being a nuclear weapon state, India remains convinced that its security would be enhanced, no diminished, if a world free of nuclear weapons were to be achieved.” (Shyam Saran) Every day the international community is exposed to the danger of nuclear conflict, and the Indian population in particular is threatened to this danger every day from direct neighboring states. Even though the Indian Republic has nuclear weapons for self-protection, the Republic of India has a long history of commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Since India's independence in 1947, we have advocated nuclear disarmament worldwide and have demonstrated our commitment on several occasions. In order to signal its active willingness in international cooperation, the Republic of India has demonstrated its active participation in the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA) at international level since 1957 and at regional level in the *Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific* (RCA). Furthermore, the Republic of India signed and ratified the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction* (CWC) in 1993. As a result of this Convention, India demonstrated its commitment to nuclear and chemical disarmament by destroying 1,044 tonnes of chemicals that could be used to produce weapons by 2009. Being aware of the consequences of a nuclear conflict, the Indian government officially adopted the doctrine of *No First Use* (NFU) into its policy in 2003. This means that the Republic of India will only use nuclear weapons if there has been a previous nuclear retaliation on Indian territory or against the Indian military, further this doctrine implies that the Republic of India will under no circumstances use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. To strengthen international security, Indian policymakers established the *Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership* (GCNEP) in 2010, which works closely with the IAEA, USA, Russia, France and the UK to provide safe and sustainable nuclear energy for the global common good. In total, GCNEP has already implemented more than 30 international and regional programmes in approximately 30 countries. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that India is a party to the *Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism* (GICNT) and participates in all three working groups of the GICNT in the areas of nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and damage limitation.

On the one hand, the Republic of India is realizing the great work that has already been done to contribute to international security, but there are still many points of crisis and conflict where further work is needed in the future. More intensive work in global centres and the establishment of such centres in other countries, such as the GCNEP, could make a positive contribution to peacebuilding. In order to make progress in nuclear disarmament, the Republic of India is adhering to the Action Plan, which provides for complete and universal nuclear disarmament, which was presented to the United Nations General Assembly in 1988 by the former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. This plan included a time-bound agenda to initiate an end of testing and a phase of reduction of nuclear weapons systems. We are also convinced that the seven-point agenda outlined by Indian Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao during the *Conference on Disarmament* (CD) in 2008 would significantly contribute to nuclear disarmament. This seven-point agenda includes an unequivocal commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, a NFU agreement by all nuclear states, etc.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

“Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. With access to energy, people can study, go to university, get a job, start a business – and reach their full potential.” (Ban Ki-moon) Even in the twenty-first century, the Republic of India still faces the problem that more than 207 million people in our country still do not have access to electricity. Even though great progress has been made in recent decades in terms of sustainable and affordable energy, for example 100% of villages have access

to electricity, there are still enough households that are denied access. Even though the national government is primarily responsible for this topic, the issue of sustainable and reliable energy is of international relevance.

Aware that energy is needed for everyday life and survival, the Government of India is strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda, including all SDGs, with a special focus here on SDG 7. In 1992, the Republic of India established the *Ministry of New and Renewable Energy* (MNRE), because due to rising oil prices, the country is trying to focus on sustainable energy sources. To achieve the goal of SDG 7, the government of India has, among other things, launched the initiative *National Solar Mission*. This mission is one of many policies of the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It enabled India to increase its solar energy fivefold within three years. The Republic of India is one of the leading nations in terms of renewable energies and has accordingly agreed many *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) with a wide range of states to guarantee an exchange of knowledge and technologies. In addition, the Indian government has introduced a Human Resource Development Programme with the aim of institutionalizing education and training on renewable energies.

Although the provision of and access to sustainable and affordable energy sources is primarily the responsibility of each country, the Government of the Republic of India is convinced that the exchange of technologies and international support is essential to make every household energy accessible and thus ensure the survival of each and every one. To this end, the Indian government recommends international conferences and agreements to ensure the exchange of sustainable technologies and knowledge. Another solution is the granting of microcredits, so that private households can also gain access to their own solar pellets and thus be independent of the general electricity supply in the country. This microcredit scheme is currently operating successfully through around 300 financial institutions in India.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

"We are also convinced of the growing worldwide scale of trafficking in persons and of the complexities involved in dealing with this issue. While national efforts to eliminate trafficking are essential, it is also critical to have greater cohesion in the international community's efforts in addressing this issue. In that context, the establishment of institutional arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels has become indispensable." (Manjeev Singh Puri) India is home to approximately 1.3 billion people, of whom an estimated 18.4 million are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Of these sums, about 25 % are children, which makes about 5.5 million children. With these numbers in mind, it can hardly be denied that India is one of the countries most affected by human trafficking worldwide.

Human trafficking in, from and to India presents our republic with a Herculean task. By signing the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), however, we have committed ourselves to the protection of men, women and especially children. In 1992, the Republic of India ratified and signed the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) in order to emphasize the protection of children again. In May 2011, the Indian government also ratified the United Nations *Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* (UNTOC) and its three protocols. What is special about the Convention is that it is the first global legally binding instrument to combat transnational organized crime. In particular, the First and Second Protocols lay down provisions to combat trafficking in human beings. At regional level, the Republic of India is a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and has ratified the *SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution*. Following ratification, a regional task force was set up in India to implement the Convention. In order to also prevent cross-border trafficking in human beings, the Republic of India maintains particularly close cooperation with Bangladesh; a task force has also been set up for this purpose, which exchanges information at regular intervals. Even though human trafficking is prohibited by law (Article 23.1) in India, the Republic of India is confronted with various problems that positively influence the increasing number of trafficked persons, such as poverty, etc. The Republic of India is the source, destination and transit country for human trafficking who then get involved in forced labor and sex trafficking, which is why we urgently depending on international help.

Human trafficking is considered the third largest organized crime, globally and the number is increasing every year. An idea to address the problem is already being implemented in the Republic of India, where Judicial Colloquium are being held to train and sensitize judicial officers to issues related to trafficking. In addition, various Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops were offered to police officers and prosecutors to raise their awareness of the problem and thus combat human trafficking. Furthermore, with the help of NGOs, especially in small communities in rural areas, people are being educated to protect the most vulnerable in society.