

**HCoC 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regular Meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Statement of India made by Mr. Subhash P Gupta**  
**Counsellor (Multilateral)**

**Madam Chair, Excellences and Distinguished delegates,**

- At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Kjersti Andersen of Norway, for assuming the chair of the HCoC for 2019-20.
- I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the outgoing chair, Ambassador Ann-Sofie Nilsson, for her hard work and excellent leadership of HCoC during the Swedish Presidency.
- Let me allow adding my gratitude to Austria for serving as the Immediate Central Contact for the HCoC.
- My delegation also would like to welcome and support Swiss candidature for the chair of 2020-21 of HCoC.
- India would like to join other delegations in welcoming the Togolese Republic as the 140<sup>th</sup> Subscribing State of the HCoC. India would like to appreciate the efforts made by the Swedish and the previous chairs for its outreach efforts in this regard.

**Madam Chair,**

- India has been fully abiding by its obligations under para 4(a) of the HCoC against ballistic missile proliferation by *inter alia* prenotifying HCoC on its ballistic missiles launches and test flights as well as Space Launch Vehicles. India has also been adhering to the timelines in submitting its annual declaration to the HCoC. My delegation would like to encourage all subscribing States to abide by its obligations under the HCoC.

- India is fully supportive of all efforts to universalize the HCoC. While transparency and confidence building measures are at the heart of the HCoC, my delegation would like to state that the Code also calls upon all subscribers “not to contribute to, support or assist any ballistic missile programme in countries which might be developing or acquiring WMD in contravention of norms established by, any of those countries obligations under, international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties.”
- Therefore, India would urge the HCoC to continue its outreach efforts with not just those States that possess space launch vehicles and ballistic missiles but also with other states that do not possess.
- In conclusion, I would like to express our hope that the discussions during this 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting will help us advance in achieving the objectives of strengthening the HCoC in its aim to contribute to international and regional security and stability.

**Thank you.**

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