

***Introduction of the resolution 'Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament***

***Statement by Hon'ble Mr. S.S. Palanimanickam, MP on October 18, 2000***

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce a draft resolution "The Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" as contained in document A/C.1/55/L.31 on Agenda item 69 and co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This Resolution addresses an issue of importance to the international community and to the developing world. The growth of science and technology offers immense possibilities for development, but at the same time, there is need to recognise that several of these advances could have military applications and are euphemistically described as "dual use" in character. The Resolution this year is similar to last year's Resolution 54/50 except for a deletion of OP4 which is no longer relevant.

Access to scientific and technological advances for developmental purposes remains a priority issue for developing countries. In fact, such access is an impetus for economic growth and can have a positive impact on global trade. At the same time, several countries in the developing world have had to pay a cost in terms of development because of the persistence of discriminatory control regimes. These regimes are in effect no more than exclusive groupings of countries that limit the exchanges of such technologies amongst themselves while denying access to others that may require them for peaceful developmental purposes. These regimes are the equivalent of non-economic barriers to normal trade and go against the generally accepted principles of global economic relations.

Policies devoted exclusively to export controls were initiated to address proliferation concerns at a time when there were no global agreements that comprehensively addressed this issue. Questions have arisen whether such exclusive arrangements with limited membership have been effective in achieving their stated purpose of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime, especially as regards the scientific and technological applications connected with advanced weapons as well as weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The Chemical Weapons Convention - the first multilateral disarmament agreement of a universal character eliminating a complete class of weapons of mass destruction - offered an opportunity to put in place a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory, legal mechanism that would simultaneously address proliferation concerns emanating from unregulated transfers while at the same time promoting the economic development of States Parties. The CWC placed an obligation on States Parties to review their export policies as measures that they take to prevent the spread to chemical materials and equipment for purposes contrary to the objectives of the Convention. However, the persistence of certain ad hoc control regimes creating a dual category of States Parties to the CWC, stresses the need for early implementation of all provisions of the CWC to safeguard its long-term viability and effectiveness.

The ongoing negotiations for an effective Protocol to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972 provides the States Parties with an opportunity to put in place an effective system of regulation of transfers of agents, toxins, equipments and technologies relevant to the Convention while avoiding measures that hamper

**the economic development of States Parties. The negotiations should also benefit from the lessons learnt from the implementation of the CWC since its entry into force.**

**The lack of a genuinely non-discriminatory, universal agreement regarding nuclear weapons has also reduced the effectiveness of non-proliferation efforts in the nuclear field. Nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects cannot be divorced from the need for measures that promote nuclear disarmament and the progressive elimination of nuclear weapons. Absence of a disarmament benchmark renders nuclear non-proliferation difficult not only to implement but to measure as well.**

**India has consistently maintained that proliferation concerns regarding materials and technologies related to advanced weapon systems, weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory agreements which are transparent and open to universal participation. The reflection of this principle in multilateral disarmament agreements would not only improve their effectiveness but also create an added impetus for their universality.**

**With a view to carrying forward the consideration by the international community of the issues at hand, India along with co-sponsors commends this Resolution for adoption by this Committee. We hope that this Resolution will receive the support of a large number of delegations.**