

**Statement by Mr. D.B. Venkatesh Varma. Director, Disarmament and International Security, Ministry of External Affairs, to introduce the resolution "The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament" on October 29, 2003**

I have the honour to introduce the resolution "The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament" under Agenda item No. 74(f) as contained in document A/C.1/58/L33. and co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Vietnam, Zambia and India.

Mr. Chairman, since 1989, India has brought before this Committee the resolution entitled "Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament".

Significant progress in science and technology, especially recent advances in information technology, advance materials, bio-technology and space applications, offer vast possibilities for socio-economic development. Access to these technologies for developmental purposes is undoubtedly a crucial prerequisite for developing countries, including their participation in global trade. This fact has been recognized by various Conventions for arms control and disarmament.

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 and legal mechanism that would address proliferation concerns about transfers while promoting the economic interest of States Parties. The CWC has placed an obligation on the States Parties to review their existing national regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to make them consistent with the Convention.

India has recognized that the 'dual use' character of many of the advances in science and technology and the potential for their use for both civilian and military applications is a legitimate cause of concern. However, discriminatory regimes, which limit the exchange of advanced technologies among exclusive groupings of states, deny access to these crucial technologies to the developing countries, even for peaceful developmental purposes, become non-economic barriers to normal exchange of technologies on a global basis and go counter to the spirit of global economic exchanges. We should also take into account the growing energy needs, particularly in the developing world, which must be met without adverse impact on the environment. Nuclear energy will play an important role in this regard.

It must be recognized that exclusive export control policies were initiated at a time when there were no global agreements that comprehensively addressed proliferation concerns. Recent events question the effectiveness of such exclusive arrangements in achieving their stated purpose of strengthening effective non-proliferation, in particular, in preventing terrorists from acquiring the weapons of mass destruction, the means of their delivery and related materials and technologies, or addressing issues of true proliferation concern. It only underlines the need to evolve genuinely equitable, inclusive and universally acceptable arrangements regulating transfer of materials and technologies related to advance weapons systems including weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery.

India has consistently maintained that multilaterally negotiated and non-discriminatory agreements, which are transparent and open to universal participation, would be the best way to address proliferation concerns regarding materials and technologies, related to advance weapon systems, weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery. The reflection of this approach in multilateral disarmament agreements would ensure their effectiveness and improve the chances of their universality. The NAM Kuala Lumpur Summit Final Document, adopted in February this year, has also supported this approach.

Mr. Chairman, there is a need today, more than ever before, to agree on an effective and transparent system of export control over technologies and materials that would achieve the objectives of non-proliferation in all its aspects while ensuring access to these technologies for peaceful applications. This resolution hopes to encourage and support such a process.

Mr. Chairman, India, along with the co-sponsors, commends adoption of this resolution by this Committee and hopes that this resolution will receive wide support.

Thank you.

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