

73rd First Committee - October 2018

**Thematic Debate- Other Disarmament Measures
and International Security**

**INDIA STATEMENT
by
Ms. Rachita Bhandari,
Counsellor (Disarmament)**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I have the honour to introduce under this cluster draft resolution L.65/Rev.1 on the Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.

At the First Committee last year, we were very pleased that the resolution was adopted by consensus and attracted co-sponsors across regions. The resolution had mandated the UNSG to submit a report on the current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts. We welcome the UNSG's report which highlights these recent developments, including in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems, Biology and Chemistry, Advanced Missile and Missile Defence Technologies, Space-based Technologies, Electromagnetic Technologies and Materials Technologies. The report provides an overview of recent developments of relevance to the means and methods of warfare; draws attention to the possible security implications of these developments, both individually and in convergence; documents multilateral efforts to address these issues; and makes recommendations on how to enhance these efforts, all of which, in our view, merit the consideration of Member States. We also welcome the submissions by Member States expressing their views on this issue, which are contained in the report.

We take note of the discussions on developments in science and technology across various forums over the past year, including in the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters during its 69th and 70th sessions, in the Meeting of Experts of the BWC on Science and Technology, in the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems and in the Conference on Disarmament under its Subsidiary Body 5.

Given the fast pace at which developments in science and technology are taking place, the resolution submitted this year requests the UNSG to submit an updated report on recent developments to the UNGA. This would give an opportunity to Member States to provide their views on the matter, including those that could not do so last year. The Advisory Board on

Disarmament Matters has been encouraged to continue its discussions on this important subject. The resolution also requests UNIDIR to organize a one-day focused Seminar in Geneva in 2019 in order to facilitate dialogue among relevant stakeholders on this subject.

In our view, Mr. Chairman, challenges related to the military applications of advances in science & technology should be tackled, first and foremost, with a nuanced understanding of these developments and how they interface with existing mechanisms and instruments on international security and disarmament. While acknowledging that there is no need to duplicate the work being carried out in existing forums, this resolution responds to the call for better coordination among the various efforts under way across the UN to address developments in science and technology in order to ensure that the international community's efforts in this regard are both coherent and comprehensive.

The delegation of India believes that the important topic of Science & Technology should bring us all together. We look forward to the continuing support of all delegations on this cross-cutting issue of immense significance and hope that the resolution will again be adopted by consensus this year. We also encourage Member States to consider co-sponsoring this resolution as a demonstration of their support to this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.