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Agenda item 58

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Afghanistan, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Hungary, India, Indonesia, Peru, Sri Lanka and
Venezuela: draft resolution

Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security

The General Assembly.

Recalling that at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, it unanimously stressed the importance of both qualitative and quantitative measures in the process of disarmament,

Noting with concern the potential in technological advances for application to military purposes, which could lead to the emergence of an entirely new class of weapon systems,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Stressing the interests of the international community in the subject and the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments which may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament,

Emphasizing that the proposal contained in its resolution 43/77 A of 7 December 1988 is without prejudice to research and development efforts being undertaken for peaceful purposes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security"; 1/

2. Fully agrees that:

(a) The international community needs to position itself better to follow the nature and direction of technological change;

(b) The United Nations can serve as a catalyst and a clearing-house for ideas of this purpose;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to follow scientific and technological developments in order to make an assessment of emerging "new technologies" and submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a framework for technology assessment guided, inter alia, by the criteria suggested in his report;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security".
