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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/37 C of 30 November 1987,

Recalling the rules and principles of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict,

Reaffirming its dedication to protecting humanity from chemical and biological warfare,

Expressing deep dismay at the use of chemical weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other rules of customary international law, at indications of their emergence in an increasing number of national arsenals and at the growing risk that they may be used again,

Recalling the provisions of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, ^{1/} and other relevant rules of customary international law,

^{1/} League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

Recalling further the necessity for adherence by all States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972, 2/

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the Security Council on chemical weapons adopted during 1988,

Noting that prompt and impartial investigation of reports of possible use of chemical and bacteriological weapons would further enhance the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

Noting in this regard the report of the Secretary-General on the expert meeting established to develop further the technical guidelines and procedures available to the Secretary-General for the timely and efficient investigation of reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons,

Recalling that the Security Council decided to consider immediately, taking into account the investigations of the Secretary-General, appropriate and effective measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Secretary-General, and noting the procedures available to him in support of the principles and objectives of the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

1. Renews its call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and condemns vigorously all actions that violate this obligation;

2. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the said Protocol;

3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to pursue as a matter of continuing urgency its negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

4. Calls upon all States to be guided in their national policies by the need to curb the spread of chemical weapons pending the conclusion of such a convention;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out promptly investigations, in response to reports that may be brought to his attention by any Member State concerning the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons that may constitute a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other rules of customary international law, in order to ascertain the facts of the matter, and

to report promptly the results of any such investigation to all Member States, in accordance with the procedures established by General Assembly resolution 42/37 C;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/37 C, with the assistance of the group of qualified experts provided by interested Member States, to continue his efforts to develop further technical guidelines and procedures available to him for the timely and efficient investigation of such reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, and to submit a report to Member States as soon as possible;

7. Requests Member States and the relevant international organizations to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the above-mentioned work;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons".
