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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RANA (Nepal)
later: Mr. MARTYNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

CONTENTS

- Consideration of and action on all disarmament agenda items (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. NEGROTTO CAMBIASO (Italy): On behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, I wish to make some comments on agenda item 55, on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, on which specific draft resolutions are under consideration.

The idea that recourse to such weapons could still be considered by some countries a military option for intimidation and aggression is repugnant to the Twelve and represents the clearest proof of the need to achieve a multilaterally binding and verifiable commitment to eliminate such weapons from the face of the Earth.

The member countries of the European Community wish to stress their undiminished resolve to achieve as speedily as possible the total elimination of chemical weapons world wide through the early conclusion and implementation of a multilateral and verifiable convention of a universal nature dealing with the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and with their destruction.

The Twelve note with satisfaction the agreement on non-production of chemical weapons and drastic reduction of their respective chemical-weapon stockpiles, which was signed by the United States of America and the Soviet Union in June in Washington. The agreement has already provided the Geneva negotiations with a constructive impetus in various respects. The Twelve hope that the agreement between the two major possessors will soon be implemented. At the same time, they wish to encourage other States possessors of chemical weapons to declare themselves as such, as a further step towards confidence-building and transparency, to make

(Mr. Negrotto Cambiaso, Italy)

their contribution to the multilateral negotiations taking place in Geneva and to declare their intention to be among the original signatories of the convention.

The Twelve are firmly convinced that, if the future ban is to be really effective and achieve its objective of freeing mankind from the danger of such a scourge, it will need to be global, comprehensive and verifiable.

Since the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Twelve have resolutely maintained their commitment to and their efforts to reach such an agreement in the shortest possible time. With regret, they note that progress in the negotiations has not matched the expectations raised by the Paris Conference of January 1989, not only in their respective countries but in the whole international community. At this stage the Twelve recognize the need for a vigorous collective effort to bring these negotiations to their conclusion at the earliest date.

(Mr. Negrotto Cambiaso, Italy)

The Twelve are fully aware of the diversity and the complexity of the problems to be solved. At the same time they have taken note with interest of the idea of a ministerial session of the Conference on Disarmament to be held at a suitable time to overcome the remaining obstacles and conclude negotiations.

The Twelve do not underestimate the complex problems which must yet be resolved. One of these is related to the setting-up of an effective verification system. In order to acquire universal adherence it is essential that the means of verification, to be put at the disposal of the future international organization, be sufficiently reliable so as to provide all States with the degree of confidence necessary to ensure enforcement of the total ban.

As the Paris Conference and the Canberra meeting helped to highlight in 1989, all the members of the international community are equally responsible for showing and substantiating their commitment to the total and speedy elimination of chemical weapons. The Twelve feel encouraged by the increase in the number of countries taking part, as observers, in the negotiations. They believe that more active participation by observer countries can contribute greatly to the attainment of universal adherence from the outset which represents an outstanding priority to ensure the effectiveness of the convention. The Twelve have already stated their intention to be among the original signatories to the convention and to promote its early entry into force.

The Twelve have been particularly concerned to note the tendency towards the proliferation of such weapons in recent years. They have firmly condemned their use in the recent past, which has caused unspeakable suffering and emphasized the danger to regional stability and general security. Similarly they deplore the recent threat of use. Such events reinforce the vital importance of upholding the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. The Twelve

(Mr. Negrotto Cambiaso, Italy)

recall in this context the reaffirmation of the commitment to this Protocol made at the Paris Conference in 1989.

Pending the signing of the convention the Twelve have adopted measures to control the export of some chemical substances which could be used for chemical weapons. A wider alignment of such controls is desirable.

The Twelve member States of the Community express their satisfaction at the dialogue which has developed between Governments and industry representatives. More recently, the meeting held in Geneva in June provided a useful opportunity to reaffirm the constructive commitment of the chemical industry, already expressed at the Canberra Conference in September 1989, to work together with Governments and continue to contribute to the achievement of the ban.

The Twelve attach equally great importance to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Twelve, while welcoming the fact that the Convention has now more than 100 parties, renew their call upon all those States which have not ratified or acceded to it, to do so without delay, thus contributing to the strengthening of international confidence in this instrument. To this end, they have strongly urged, through appropriate initiatives, the countries non-parties to the Treaty to ratify or accede to it before the Third Review Conference, next year. In anticipation of that event they underscore the importance of compliance with the confidence-building measures introduced at the Second Review Conference in 1986 and look forward to their further strengthening and expansion.

The Twelve finally consider that the present régime could be improved through greater co-operation among the parties to the Convention, as well as giving due consideration to any further new measures at the coming review Conference.

Mr. ZIPPORI (Israel): I have asked to speak in order to make a few comments on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.1 regarding item 49, "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". I should like once again to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Akashi, the officials of the Disarmament Division, and especially the three independent experts for providing us with a very thoughtful and useful study in document A/45/435.

As requested by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has given much thought to "the circumstances and characteristics of the Middle East", some of which are crucial from Israel's point of view.

The study dwells on the precariousness of Israel's situation, and this is what it says in paragraphs 97 and 98:

"... there are indications that Israel's relative conventional strength may be diminishing. In this connection, one factor that should be pointed out is the acquisition by potential opponents of ballistic missiles with a relatively long range and high accuracy. This gives those States a means of striking at a longer distance and enables them to participate in a conflict, even if their territory does not directly abut on the opponent's. As its population is small and becoming smaller in proportion to those of the other nations in the area, Israel has also become more vulnerable to a situation of prolonged warfare leading to a high number of casualties among its civilians or its military.

"Against this background, it is appropriate to point out that Israel's security position is characterized by three features that cannot but play a part in determining its attitude towards the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone: the relatively small size of its territory; the sustained hostility between itself and the great majority of States of the region; and the fact

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

that it has no military allies in the region and that the one State that might support it in a conflict is geographically remote." (A/45/435, paras. 97-98)

Let me amplify these statements. Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria continue to espouse the unconditional liquidation of Israel. I say these threats are unconditional and have nothing to do with the solution of any problem, and certainly not with a resolution of the Palestinian problem. These countries just wish to destroy Israel and their designs are backed up with a massive military potential. We have tried in vain to alert the General Assembly over the years to the existential problems which Israel faces. It is possible that the General Assembly will appreciate the force of Israel's warnings in the light of recent experiences with Iraq. The international summons required to meet the Iraqi threat certainly illustrates the massive character of the threat we have to face from Iraq alone.

The study further dwells on the need to deal with all security issues separately, but concurrently, and not with the nuclear aspect alone. This is what it says in paragraph 151:

"The close relationship - the 'linkage' - among all the elements that affect security is well known. Nuclear capabilities are linked to chemical weapons, chemical weapons to conventional arms, conventional arms to political conflict. And all these threads are woven into a seamless fabric of fear and insecurity. If the area is to become and remain truly nuclear-free, then this fabric must be cut into pieces and dealt with piece by piece. The problem is much too complex and unyielding for any comprehensive settlement to solve all at once. Yet all the separate elements must be worked on concurrently, for it will not be possible to settle any one piece of the problem unless it is clear that progress is being made on the other pieces as well. A radical transformation, step by step, must be effected in the military and political

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

relationships of the entire area. The peoples of the Middle East must develop confidence that the political conflicts that surely will long remain are going to be settled - and settled equitably - without resort to force or the threat of force." (ibid., para. 151)

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

That statement underscores what we believe to be true. A credible nuclear-weapon-free zone can only be one in which the threat or use of force of any kind are ruled out.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the First Committee to the insistence of the study on the need to create confidence. It states:

"Confidence must be built on all sides: confidence that declarations of a desire for a just and lasting peace are not merely a smokescreen, confidence that military solutions to political problems are excluded, confidence that military postures that are perceived as threatening can be avoided or adjusted. Renunciation of hostile acts and of threatening, inflammatory declarations would do much to increase confidence as well. Most important of all, there must be progress in solving the fundamental conflicts in the region. Without such progress, technical measures in the nuclear area or on other security problems will hardly be given serious thought, much less will they be developed to provide a meaningful barrier to tension and even war."

(A/45/435, para. 110)

We believe that the creation of confidence is the inevitable precursor to any credible arrangement in the Middle East. The first step can, in our view, be only one: the ready acknowledgement of Israel's place in the Middle East and the cessation of warlike threats and actions on the part of Arab leaders. We can certainly not countenance a denial of our existence as a basis on which trust can be built.

In chapters IV and V of the study, the Secretary-General makes a number of specific proposals. I shall not discuss them in detail at this stage. Some do, and some do not, in our view, meet the contingencies of the situation. Let me, however, impress on the Committee the reference to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone:

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

"Realistically, however, such a zone can be realized only step by step in a process extending over years, a process in which all States would work to create a total environment in which no State feels its security is threatened. A zone can be even more effective in this regard than the NPT, essential as that instrument and its IAEA safeguards system are. A zone can, for example, involve even more extensive and rigorous verification procedures; it can establish additional constraints on peaceful nuclear activities; it can provide for an extensive system of positive and negative security guarantees; it can prescribe even more difficult requirements for withdrawal than the NPT." (ibid., para. 109)

The study is careful in not assigning an order of priorities to its recommendations. In our view, it is manifest that the most elementary confidence-building measures, which I mentioned before, need to precede the negotiation of any credible arrangement. Israel's legitimacy in the Middle East needs to be acknowledged by its neighbours and threats to its existence must cease. Next, a nuclear-weapon-free zone needs to be negotiated between the States of the region, and such negotiations need to be paralleled by negotiations on other issues which threaten the security of the States of the region, especially those that derive from the sheer quantity and quality of arms deployed.

The situation between Israel and its committed Arab adversaries is not symmetrical. They threaten Israel unconditionally and thereby aggravate the prospects for the solution of any problem. For its part, Israel has never threatened any Arab country.

There is no doubt in our mind that it is we, above all, who need to be reassured.

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

We are asked to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.1. Despite its misgivings on the modalities spelt out in it, Israel will join the consensus, as it did in previous years. Israel wants a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and wants such a zone and the negotiations leading to it to do away with the danger of further wars of any kind, altogether.

Rather than taking issue with the various paragraphs in detail, let me state once again the modalities which we believe to be essential. First, with regard to free and direct negotiations between the States of the region, we have said, and state again, that we stand ready to begin discussion with any State of the region willing to do so. Secondly, with regard to reliance on mutual arrangements - including inspections - we cannot confide our security to international supervision, which is at the mercy of political contingencies, has not prevented a single local war and is likely to break down every time there is tension. I doubt that inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency will be permitted to visit Iraq nowadays.

Those conditions, which imply a cessation of wars, are, in our view, indispensable. The detached observer may not care, but we happen to be the direct object of evil designs, and are right to be wary.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26.

Ms. SUKOVIC (Yugoslavia): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament", on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Viet Nam and my own country, Yugoslavia.

(Ms. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

I should like to inform the Committee that Bolivia and Pakistan have now joined the list of sponsors.

The sponsors attach the greatest importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. They are convinced that in the present international climate, when substantive progress is being made on bilateral and regional levels, the Conference has acquired even greater importance as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and that multilateral efforts and bilateral negotiations should complement each other. That is why the sponsors consider that the Conference should be most directly involved in negotiating the priority issues of disarmament, and particularly those concerning nuclear disarmament. However, the report submitted this year by the Conference to the General Assembly shows that this is not yet the case.

As a result, the sponsors of the draft resolution note with regret that the Conference was not able to commence negotiations on the nuclear issues on its agenda. In the last two preambular paragraphs, expectations are expressed that the Conference, in view of the positive current progress in some fields of disarmament, will be in a position to reach concrete agreements on disarmament issues to which the United Nations has for years assigned the greatest priority and urgency. The sponsors also consider that in the present international climate a new impetus to negotiations on disarmament at all levels is needed.

Having in mind the fact that in this year's report of the Conference on Disarmament special attention is given to the efforts made to improve the functioning of the Conference, I should like to submit an amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, adding a new paragraph at the end of the preambular part, and in that way encourage the Conference to continue its efforts in that direction. It reads as follows:

(Mr. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

"Taking note with satisfaction of the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on the progress towards improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, and expressing the hope that the progress will continue in all aspects of its work".

In the operative part of the draft resolution, after reaffirming the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community, the sponsors note the progress made in the negotiations on the elaboration of a draft convention on a comprehensive and effective prohibition of all chemical weapons and urge the Conference to intensify its work with a view to completing negotiations on such a draft convention as soon as possible.

(Ms. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

After noting the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban, the General Assembly would, in paragraph 4, call upon the Conference to strengthen its work, to further its mandate through substantive negotiations, and to adopt concrete measures on the specific priority issues of disarmament on its agenda, and would urge the Conference to provide negotiating mandates to ad hoc committees on all agenda items.

In the remaining operative paragraphs, the General Assembly would request the Conference to submit a report on its work to it at its forty-sixth session, and would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Before concluding, I should like to express our appreciation to all delegations for their constructive co-operation as co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, as well as to other delegations which offered their views. At the same time, I should like to stress that my delegation, together with other sponsors, is continuing consultations with all interested delegations in the hope that the draft resolution will receive the widest possible support so that it may be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Pakistan, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.18.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution sponsored by Bangladesh and Pakistan on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (A/C.1/45/L.18).

We have been encouraged by the recent positive trends in the international political climate and the various initiatives that have been taken in the field of disarmament. Nevertheless, regional conflicts and tensions continue to exist in many parts of the world, endangering peace and security. The relevance and importance of our proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

South Asia cannot therefore be over-emphasized. This draft resolution, which has been motivated by the sponsors' abiding commitment to the process of the universal elimination of nuclear weapons, also reflects the realistic assessment that, pending the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, it would be advantageous to keep as many regions of the world free of nuclear weapons as possible. The creation of such zones has been recognized in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as an important interim measure pending general and complete disarmament, which remains the ultimate goal and objective of all States.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has also lent its support to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1989, expressed support for the establishment and strengthening of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, which could contribute significantly to the strengthening of international security.

The sponsors recognize the vital importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the move towards general and complete disarmament. Such zones are not an end in themselves. Nor are they intended as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, the global and comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament. They also serve as an important confidence-building measure. Furthermore, our shared goal of universal nuclear disarmament would receive an impetus from the establishment of such zones.

We believe that the necessary conditions exist in South Asia to enable the countries of the region to move towards the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. All countries of the region share the commitment to keep the area free of nuclear weapons. They have made unilateral declarations, at the highest

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

levels, pledging themselves not to acquire, develop or manufacture nuclear weapons. They have supported all international efforts for nuclear disarmament and for the complete elimination of these awesome weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan's views on the subject are contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/462), dated 11 September 1990, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

Pakistan, for its part, has time and again declared its intention not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. The proposal for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia is thus also an earnest of Pakistan's sincere desire to keep our region permanently free of nuclear weapons. Over the years we have made a number of other proposals to ensure the permanent denuclearization of South Asia. It is our firmly held belief that a regional approach would be the most effective means of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in our region, with all States of the region accepting equal and non-discriminatory obligations. It is in this context that Pakistan has proposed a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia and the convening of a conference on non-proliferation in South Asia on the basis of equitable and non-discriminatory principles.

Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.18, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, has been prepared along the same lines as resolution 44/109 adopted with the overwhelming support of the States Members of the United Nations last year. In its preamble the conviction is reiterated that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objective of non-proliferation and will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In the preamble the General Assembly

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

would recall the declarations issued by Governments of South Asian States reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples.

In the operative part, the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia is endorsed, and the States of South Asia are urged to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective. The Secretary-General is requested to ascertain the views of the States of the region on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

It is our hope that the adoption of the draft resolution will provide further encouragement to the States in our region to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. We therefore hope that the international community will once again lend its broad support to the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Sweden, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

Ms. THEORIN (Sweden): International tensions are rapidly subsiding, as is the threat of cataclysmic global warfare. This reassuring state of affairs is, however, paralleled by a growing realization of the urgency of addressing other equally debilitating global problems. These include hunger, poverty, illiteracy and environmental deterioration, which constitutes a fundamental barrier to a decent future for mankind. Against this background, the potential for utilizing human resources allocated to military activities to protect the environment, in both developing and industrialized countries, merits further exploration, particularly in the present international climate.

I have asked to speak today in order to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 on behalf of the delegations of Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Suriname, Venezuela, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Sweden.

The object of this draft resolution is to chart potential uses, for environmental endeavours, of assets such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production currently allocated to military activities.

Pursuant to this draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be requested, making use of existing resources, to carry out a study of such uses and to transmit the study to next year's session of the General Assembly. Examples of such military assets, which may be either high technology or low technology, or know-how, are: satellite technologies, for example in the field of remote sensing, with potential applications in, for instance, agricultural monitoring and planning; research capacity in, for instance, laboratories and computer facilities to detect and remedy environmental degradation; military equipment, personnel and know-how

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

for the handling and disposal of toxic, radioactive or otherwise harmful materials, including the destruction of weapons; organizational capacity to train, educate and mobilize manpower; personnel, know-how and military equipment for national or international disaster relief; existing networks of the military sector, universities and other institutions for the dissemination of information and data; and industrial and technological capacity in the fields of energy, transportation, emission control and field engineering.

In view of the accelerating preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it is envisaged that the Secretary-General may make relevant findings of the study available to the Preparatory Committee without awaiting formal endorsement of the study by the General Assembly.

Speaking now on behalf of my own delegation only, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate a little further on the thinking underlying the draft resolution.

It stands to reason that the military sector is well equipped for solving certain categories of environmental problems, including both natural catastrophes and other types of large-scale disasters, or the handling and disposal of highly toxic, radioactive or otherwise harmful substances. Actual examples of national provisions for such functions are numerous.

As far as research and development are concerned, I would like to mention here that in Sweden there is already an incipient Centre for Environmental Research, in which the National Defence Research Establishment, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the National Institute of Occupational Health and the University of Umea co-operate.

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

By their very nature, environmental problems tend to be multi-disciplinary. Therefore, the study of current environmental problems may require co-operation between different types of scientific competence. In the light of what has been said before, there are issues in which military research and development have a distinct comparative advantage, which has been the rationale for the co-operative undertaking in environmental research in Sweden.

Also, aside from the Centre for Environmental Research, there is pertinent Swedish experience of how military research and development assets, or techniques developed in the military sphere, may be utilized for environmental purposes, including studies, which in turn may provide guidance for improved protection of the environment.

One such endeavour, which is already the subject of international collaboration, is the tracing of toxic discharges, a capacity which is dependent both on the ability to detect and identify toxic substances and on techniques to follow their paths from the source.

Sensors developed for military purposes may be put to use in environmental research. Here I have in mind, for instance, special forms of radar which are capable of looking through dense foliage and even to some depth in the ground, and infra-red sensors which may detect very slight colour changes and thereby give early indications of changing growth conditions for crops and other types of vegetation.

As with the verification of compliance with international disarmament agreements, the need for a system for the reliable collection and transmission of large quantities of data for the verification of international environmental agreements is expected to grow. Expertise acquired under military auspices may have a role here.

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

Military resources for toxicological research are also being put to use to study both organisms occurring in nature, such as blue-green algae, and new substances introduced by human activities. In part related to this line of research there is also a study, conducted by a group on combustion research, of the emissions from waste combustion, in particular various nitric oxides.

It is universally recognized that disarmament and the protection of the environment are two of the key challenges facing the international community in the 1990s. Each of these two major issues is, in its own right, a top priority internationally at present: disarmament, in part thanks to the radically improved international climate; the environment, accentuated by the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. This has been decisive for the timing of the submission of this draft resolution.

In order to avert possible misunderstandings, let me, before I conclude, clarify that the draft resolution is not directly geared towards institutionalized conversion per se. The language of the draft resolution is meant not to prejudge eventual institutional rearrangements; it is meant to be neutral with regard to structural implications.

The ambition of the sponsors of the draft resolution is to chart potential environmentally beneficial uses of resources, such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production, currently allocated to military activities. In the light of the radical changes in the international atmosphere in the past year or two, it is a very modest ambition.

I hope that the proposal will elicit broad support. I commend draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 for adoption by the Committee.

Mrs. CARVALHO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): We thank the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Theorin, for her excellent introduction of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, entitled "Charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment", of which Mexico is one of the sponsors.

The issue of the redirection of resources allocated to weapons production has been the object of consideration by the United Nations for several decades and has attracted increasing attention from its Members in the light of the improvement in the international political situation.

(Mrs. Carvalho, Mexico)

In 1962 the General Assembly adopted resolution 1837 (XVII), entitled "Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament", which states:

"Convinced that disarmament and the conversion of huge resources to peaceful uses would open up vast opportunities for the development of peaceful co-operation and trade among States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, that the expansion of international economic exchange and mutual assistance would be beneficial to all countries, both big and small and both economically less developed and highly developed ..."

Industrial over-capacity in the arms field should be seen as a threat to international peace, for it entails increased arms exports, particularly to areas of conflict, and consequently a diversion of resources from development.*

We believe that the activities carried out within the United Nations system should take greater account of the relationship between disarmament and development. Such an approach needs to be global and aimed at giving greater security to the world. However, in recent years there has been growing concern about conditions on our planet and about the need to achieve development without undermining the environment.

An appropriate strategy for the future should contain solid foundations to enable us to reach the twenty-first century in improved circumstances; in so doing, we shall have to focus on three essential interrelated problems - namely, disarmament, development and the environment.

* Mr. Martynov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Mrs. Carvalho, Mexico)

Politically it is possible to attain the first of these elements. Prospects for significant reductions in weapons and armed forces lead us to hope that the resources released as a result can be redirected towards development - development that will offer a better life to all without added risk to the environment, whose deterioration to a large extent has been attributed to the industrialized countries.

To facilitate an exchange of opinion and experience on the conversion of resources and to begin as quickly as possible a study of potential uses of resources currently allocated to military activities for promoting the protection of the environment is an initiative that will certainly contribute to efforts already under way to attack the major world problems.

That is why Mexico has joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Russian): I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/45/L.12, Ghana; L.13, Hungary; L.15, Ghana and Senegal; L.21/Rev.1, Brazil and Argentina; L.22, Chile; L.23, Chile; L.30, Ghana; L.31, Mauritius; L.38, Czechoslovakia; L.44, Norway; L.46, Costa Rica; L.51, Senegal; and L.53, Hungary.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.