General Assembly

Seventy-first session

First Committee
19th meeting
Monday, 24 October 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

Chair:　　　　Mr. Boukadoum . . . . (Algeria)

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Zelený (Czech Republic), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda items 89 to 105 (*continued*)

Thematic discussion on specific subjects and introduction and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions submitted under all disarmament and related international security agenda items

The Acting Chair: This afternoon, we will take up the cluster "Other disarmament measures and international security". However, before commencing with the list of speakers on that cluster, and in accordance with its adopted timetable, the First Committee will first hear from a panel under the cluster "Disarmament machinery".

It is now my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our panellists for this afternoon. They are the President of the Conference on Disarmament, His Excellency Mr. Kim In-chul of the Republic of Korea; the Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, His Excellency Mr. Odo Tevi, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations; the Chair of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, Ms. Mely Caballero-Anthony; and the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Mr. Jarmo Sareva.

The report of the Conference on Disarmament is contained in document A/71/27. The report of the Disarmament Commission for 2016 is contained in document A/71/42. The report of the Secretary-General

on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters is contained in document A/71/176. Finally, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research is contained in document A/71/162.

I will first give our panellists the floor to make their statements. Thereafter, we will change to an informal mode in order to afford delegations an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. I urge our panellists to kindly keep their statements concise to ensure that we have adequate time for an interactive discussion on the subject.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kim In-chul.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea) President, Conference on Disarmament: I thank you, Sir, and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim Won-soo, for the invitation to take part in today's panel discussion to present to the First Committee the 2016 report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/71/27).

It was an honour for the Republic of Korea to assume the final presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for the 2016 session and to work with the five other sitting Presidents, namely, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru and Poland. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my colleagues and the other Presidents for their support and cooperation.

As has been the case in previous years, much time and effort were dedicated to the Conference on Disarmament throughout the year. As the last President of the session, my primary duty was to work for the

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adoption of the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament and to lead the informal consultations on the draft resolution on the report of the Conference for its submission to the First Committee. The 2016 report of the Conference on Disarmament was adopted by consensus on 6 September. I would like to brief the Committee on the work of the Conference for the 2016 session by outlining the report of the Conference.

At the outset, the report refers to the message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim Won-soo, which encourages the Conference on Disarmament to live up to its responsibility as the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. In addition, including on the occasion of the high-level segment, numerous dignitaries voiced support for the Conference, expressed concern about its current situation and called upon it to advance the international disarmament agenda.

One particular characteristic of the Conference this year was that its session included several activities pertaining to a draft programme of work. We believe that such rather intensive activities and active discussions concerning the Conference's programme of work are encouraging signs that reflect Member States' support for, and interest in, the Conference.

During this year's session, several drafts of the programme of work were submitted. Nigeria circulated a draft decision on a programme of work for the 2016 session in February, the gist of which was to establish working groups under agenda items 1 to 4 for 10 working days each, as contained in document CD/WP.594. The United Kingdom presented a proposal for a programme of work in February as well, aimed at the establishment of a working group on nuclear disarmament. In addition, the Russian Federation presented a proposal to establish a working group under agenda item 6, as contained in document CD/2057, in March, and a subsequent revised proposal in August. I should not fail to also mention that ideas for a proposal for a programme of work and other ideas in that respect were shared at the Conference, where rich and serious discussions on them were held.

Throughout the session, successive Presidents of the Conference focused their efforts on conducting intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on a programme of work on the basis of the relevant proposals. The Polish presidency submitted

for adoption a draft decision for the establishment of a programme of work. Despite those efforts, however, the Conference did not reach consensus on a programme of work in 2016.

I would now like to turn to the matter of the substantive work of the Conference. On the proposal of the Peruvian presidency, the Conference held plenary meetings on all Conference agenda items for delegations to express their national positions and exchange views with other delegations. The Conference also conducted focused informal discussions on a couple of important issues.

First, on the initiative of the Pakistani presidency, the Conference held an informal meeting in May on women and disarmament. On that occasion, a large number of delegations affirmed their national commitments to better addressing gender aspects in the field of disarmament, while also highlighting their support for relevant United Nations resolutions, such as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 69/61, on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and called for more attention to this issue.

Also, an informal meeting on the main international challenges for disarmament was held in August upon the initiative of the Polish presidency. Followed by insightful presentations by experts, delegations had a chance to express their respective views on the topic.

In this vein, it should also be noted that the second informal Conference on Disarmament-Civil Society Forum was held under the authority of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Michael Møller. The Forum was held in response to the positive feedback on the first Forum, which was held last year. Under the topics of new weapons-technologies and the role and possible contribution of the Conference to strengthening the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are not only cross-cutting but also very relevant to the current disarmament landscape, delegations exchanged their views following panel presentations. During the Forum, many delegations supported the initiative of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and emphasized the importance of the Conference's interaction with civil society.

Lastly, with regard to the expansion of the membership of the Conference, with requests for membership from 27 countries since 1982, the

Conference did not make much progress this year, and I expect that the Conference will deal with this issue in future sessions.

In wrapping up my statement, I would like to say that, all in all, despite our efforts to adopt a programme of work, the Conference on Disarmament was not able to reach a concrete final outcome. We hope, however, that the efforts we made to get the Conference back to work will become a basis upon which we will build further efforts next year. In that regard, I look forward to holding consultations with the incoming Romanian presidency, as well as with all other delegations, with a view to exploring and exchanging ideas on how to make progress in our efforts to live up to the international community's expectations of the Conference.

I would like to conclude by expressing our deep and sincere appreciation for the support we received during our presidency from all our colleagues and the Conference secretariat, especially on the work relating the report of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the draft resolution for the General Assembly.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to Mr. Tevi, both in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.38.

Mr. Tevi (Vanuatu), Chair, United Nations Disarmament Commission: It is an honour to address the First Committee in my capacity as the Chair of the Disarmament Commission and present the report of its 2016 session (A/71/42).

Pursuant to resolution 70/68, the Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 22 April. Following the recommendations contained in draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.38, as well as its own decision that the agenda for the 2015 substantive session should serve for the period of 2015 to 2017, the Commission continued to consider the two agenda items adopted at its 2015 session, namely, "Recommendations for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" and "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, continued to serve as Chair of Working Group I, which was entrusted with the mandate of the item "Recommendations for achieving the objective

of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Mr. Bouchaib Eloumni, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations, continued to serve as Chair of Working Group II, which was entrusted with the mandate of the item "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

The Commission held six plenary meetings in the course of its 2016 substantive session. Working Group I and Working Group II held 12 meetings each and engaged in extensive discussions on their respective agenda items. On 22 April, the Commission adopted the reports of Commissions and its Working Groups and agreed to submit the texts of the reports to the General Assembly. No recommendations were put forward to the General Assembly by the Commission.

At the beginning of its 2015 session, the Commission adopted its substantive agenda items with the understanding that consultations would continue on ways and means to implement resolution 69/77, which referred, inter alia, to the proposal to include a third agenda item. The Commission held consultations on a proposal contained in working paper A/CN.10/2016/WP.1, which was submitted by China, the Russian Federation and the United States, for the inclusion of the third agenda item for the remaining period of its present triennial cycle. The proposed additional item reads:

"In accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space".

There was no consensus on the proposal by the end of the 2016 substantive session, but the Commission's report for 2016 stipulated that the Chair of the Commission would conduct further consultations with Member States on the proposal in the context of considering ways and means to implement resolution 69/77 without prejudice to the deliberations on the existing agenda items.

As Chair of the Commission, I subsequently conducted extensive consultations with Member States, particularly with the assistance of a facilitator,

Ms. Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria, during the intersessional period, with a view to reaching agreement on the third agenda item proposed in the working paper mentioned earlier. While there has been no agreement on formally adopting the third agenda item during the current triennial cycle, those consultations resulted in an understanding that the Commission could hold substantive discussions on the subject contained in the working paper, namely, "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", without prejudice to the deliberations on the existing agenda items. This understanding is reflected in the draft resolution on the report of the Disarmament Commission (A/C.1/71/L.38). I hope that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

The Disarmament Commission held its substantive session this year against the backdrop of a particularly challenging security environment and increasingly divisive multilateral disarmament forums, especially with respect to the proposal for a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, we succeeded in engaging in focused, constructive deliberations in a markedly positive atmosphere throughout the session, from plenary meetings and Working Group meetings to informal consultations.

In Working Group I, delegations held in-depth discussions on critical issues on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Despite holding highly divergent views, Member States shed light on common ground and obtained a better understanding of other parties' positions. In Working Group II, delegations engaged in constructive dialogue on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons and achieved tangible progress by narrowing their differences of views on some of the key issues.

Both Working Groups have taken forward their deliberations on the respective agenda items and laid the groundwork for making further progress next year. Given that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly this century, there is an imperative for the Commission to fulfil its mandate as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly and provide fresh impetus to long-stalled multilateral disarmament.

Before I conclude my briefing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to the Chairs of the Working Groups, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan and Mr. Bouchaib Eloumni of Morocco. I also wish to express appreciation to Ambassador Barlybay Sadykov of Kazakhstan, who assisted Ambassador Abdrakhmanov in steering the deliberations of Working Group I. I am gratified that they rose to the challenge and delivered fruitful outcomes.

I also thank my facilitator, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, for her assistance with consultations during the intersessional period. Without her tireless efforts and diplomatic skill, no progress would have been made in our consultations.

I would like to conclude my remarks by recalling that the Disarmament Commission agreed on a total of 16 sets of recommendations and guidelines during the first two decades of its existence. It has played, and should continue to play, a unique role within the United Nations disarmament machinery as the only body with universal membership for in-depth deliberations on relevant disarmament issues. If we underutilize this precious asset, we will undermine peace and security — and our own future.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to Ms. Caballero-Anthony.

Ms. Caballero-Anthony (Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters): It is my pleasure, as Chair of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, to report on behalf of the Board to the First Committee on the Board's work during its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions, held in Geneva, from 27 to 29 January, and in New York, from 29 to 1 July, respectively.

During those sessions, the Board focused on three agenda items, namely, first, the challenges facing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its review process with a particular focus on the Middle East and the lessons learned from non-United Nations and regional processes; secondly, the relationship between sustainable development, security and arms control; and thirdly, the emerging nexus between chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats with cybersecurity and terrorism.

On the first agenda item, on the challenges facing the NPT review process, the Advisory Board examined the process in the light of the outcome of the 2015 Review Conference. Noting the shared concern at the lack of consensus on delivering a document, and in order to engage in substantive debates on relevant issues, the Advisory Board underlined the need to move away from entrenched positions and resume the search

for the consensus that had prevailed throughout the history of the NPT. The Board therefore recommended that the review process focus on delivering actionable recommendations focused on the next five-year cycle.

Members of the Board therefore underlined the need to address some of the most pressing issues associated with nuclear weapons, non-proliferation and disarmament, including, inter alia, first, agreement on a precise agenda on appropriate and concrete steps in the field of nuclear disarmament, such as transparency and confidence-building measures aimed at reducing nuclear risk and promoting responsible nuclear policies; secondly, the effort to address the lessons and consequences of non-compliance cases; and, thirdly, addressing the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the NPT and its repeated challenges to Security Council resolutions and urging full compliance by all Member States with Security Council resolution 2270 (2016).

The Board held intensive discussions on the prospects of the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and made specific recommendations, which are reflected and outlined in paragraph 19 of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/71/176). One of those recommendations is that the Secretary-General lead in encouraging initiatives and ideas to bring all relevant parties together in a constructive dialogue.

With regard to the lessons learned from the non-United Nations regional processes, the Board was of the view that much indeed could be learned from different regional frameworks in promoting confidence-building, arms control and disarmament. The successful creation of several nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world is instructive in providing working methodologies, the required instruments and the arrangements for a political framework mechanism.

Since 2016 marks the twentieth anniversary since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was opened for signature, the Board recommended that the Secretary-General take the initiative to facilitate its ratification with a view to accelerating the entry into force of the CTBT and provide all possible support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission, as well as to expand and strengthen the Organization's monitoring work.

The Board also suggested a number of other recommendations, including, inter alia, with regard to the need to commission a study, implemented with the participation of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, on the development of long-range conventional weapons, including those using hypersonic technologies. The Board also recommended that the Secretary-General commission a United Nations-initiated study on a multilateral intermediate-range missile regime and to make sure that discussions in preparation for such a study involved representatives of all the States that possess intermediate-range missiles.

Members of the Board took note of the importance of education in advancing the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. In that regard, the Board suggested that, at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, a review be conducted on the implementation of the recommendations made by the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, taking into account the latest experience and new technologies in the area of education programmes, as well as the role of civil-society organizations.

With regard to the second agenda item, on the relationship between sustainable development, security and arms control, the Board took note of the significance of the inclusion of peace, security and justice in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Members of the Board consider that to be an important milestone in that it could recognize the close interconnection between development and security. Members of the Board therefore highlighted the fact that there were many other factors at play that could aggravate challenges to security and development, in particular governance and livelihood issues.

Against those challenges, the Board recommended that concerted efforts be made on multiple fronts to, first, encourage the strengthening of existing international instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Firearms Protocol; secondly, establish indicators for measurement, such as the marking of small arms, and place a strong emphasis on tapping new technologies for tracing, tracking and identifying small arms to help build capacity among Member States with the goal of detecting and preventing legal arms from being diverted towards illicit possession and use; and, thirdly, reinforce mechanisms and procedures related to security sector reform and security sector governance, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The Board also put emphasis on building platforms, partnerships and coalitions that include civil society and the private sector to facilitate compliance with, and the implementation of, the goals I mentioned. Other important measures that the Board suggested to be examined include voluntary measures, confidence-building, awareness-raising, reporting, information sharing, the collection, stockpiling and destruction of weapons, the development, where appropriate, of comprehensive armed-violence-prevention programmes that will be integrated into the development frameworks, and the inclusion of national measures to regulate small arms and light weapons in longer-term peacebuilding strategies.

On the third topic, the emerging nexus between chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats with cybersecurity and terrorism, the Board noted that this was an interesting topic for discussion, as it has novel and complex implications for international peace and security that deserve serious attention. Given the many complexities of that nexus, the Board underscored the importance of creating greater understanding and awareness of the potential threats of terrorists using cybernetic means to cause death, destruction and disruption on a scale comparable to the use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

In that regard, the Board recommended that the Secretary-General use his major presentations to highlight the issue, including during the general debate of the General Asasembly at its seventy-first session and in his message to the 2016 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, to be held in November. The Board further recommends that the nexus topic remain on its agenda for 2017. In addition to further exploring the complexities of the issue, the Board suggests focusing on the work on two specific issues on the basis of two more serious threats, namely, the threat of cyberattacks by terrorists on nuclear facilities and the potential cyberthreats to biosecurity.

Finally, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Board approved the work plan and the budget of the Institute for the period 2016 and 2017, as well as the submission to the General Assembly of the report of the Director of UNIDIR and its financial status (A/71/162). The Board commended the Director and the staff of UNIDIR for successfully managing the projects undertaken by the Institute.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to Mr. Sareva.

Mr. Sareva (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research): It was just over a year ago that I last spoke to the First Committee (see A/C.1/70/PV.18). As Committee members may recall, at that time the main focus of my presentation was on the financial and administrative challenges that the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was facing.

I am pleased to report that, since then, the Institute has completed its transition to a more stable institutional and administrative footing, and that more resilient institutional foundation is allowing the Institute to operate more effectively. While the transition was not simple or easy, it was made possible by the strong support we received from Member States and the senior management of the United Nations, and by the continued efforts of our dedicated staff. I would like to thank the Committee for its part in that success.

At its June 2016 meeting, the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, as we just heard, welcomed the measurable improvement on nearly all challenges faced by the Institute in 2015. At the same time, the Board emphasized the need to ensure the Institute's operational sustainability and independence, while reiterating its previous recommendation that the United Nations regular-budget subvention to the Institute be increased on a sustained basis to fund the institutional framework required for UNIDIR project activities, in conformity with the United Nations rules and procedures.

I would like to stress that operating a research institute within the United Nations — and the Member States have decided to put us in the United Nations — entails high operating costs simply to comply with the Organization's financial, human resources and other rules, regulations and requirements. Like other voluntarily funded entities within the United Nations system, the Institute continues to face an increasingly challenging environment in financing such costs, which constitute our institutional operations budget. This is funding that is not limited to the implementation of a specific project or activity, nor to its duration. In essence, the institutional operations budget provides the framework that keeps the Institute in existence and supports all of our activities.

Our funders' overwhelming preference is to offer earmarked project-level support, and sometimes it is

the only option available to them if they are to comply with their national rules and policies. We are of course extremely grateful for their generosity. At the same time, Member States must decide how — either individually through unearmarked contributions or collectively through a larger subvention, or ideally a combination thereof — to cover the costs of the institutional framework. Some of those costs, in particular ones related to the workload required to comply with the financial and other rules and regulations of the United Nations, are a tough sell for the purpose of raising voluntary contributions towards them.

The Institute's activities are like applications that need an operating system. The operating system is made up of UNIDIR's institutional framework and funding. We need this operating system to run the applications that are our projects. For UNIDIR to be able to continue delivering on its mandate to undertake independent research and analysis, build capacity on both traditional and emerging issues and deliver innovative, practical tools to assist Member States with the real-world challenges of implementing their disarmament commitments, sustainable institutional funding is indispensable. Now that, with the Committee's support, we have largely resolved the long-standing administrative challenges facing UNIDIR, addressing this gap between dedicated project funding and institutional funding remains the one outstanding challenge. I am confident that, in partnership with the First Committee, this too can be resolved.

As administrative challenges have been resolved, we have been able to rededicate ourselves to developing our substantive programme of work. This year, for the first time in several years, we have seen substantial growth in our research programme. New projects that the Institute has commenced this year include, inter alia, research on — to quote the titles of a couple of our projects — "Understanding Nuclear Weapon Risks", "Increasing UAV Transparency, Oversight and Accountability", "Nuclear Weapons in Europe: Stepping Stones for Restrictions and Reductions" and "Verification: Nuclear Disarmament".

With regard to emerging issues, we recently completed an expert workshop series on cybersecurity. We are also providing substantive support to the current Group of Governmental Experts on Information Security. Our 2016 space security and cybersecurity workshops continued to draw large audiences from among Member States, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society, academia and even the private sector. And UNIDIR's work on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies — I see that the Colombian representative in front of me has a "Stop killer robots" sticker on his laptop — has gained international prominence in the discussion on lethal autonomous-weapons systems and beyond.

We continue our work in the domain of conventional weapons, which focuses on three interrelated areas. The first is weapons and ammunition management in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The second is preventing the diversion and proliferation of illicit arms. The third is supporting the review and implementation of global instruments and standards, which includes supporting the practical implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty to address diversion through the harmonization of end-user control systems.

To give one example of the practical orientation of our work, UNIDIR, together with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, recently concluded capacity-building activities on weapons and ammunition management in Kinshasa. This is but one example of our dynamic current research programme. For the rest of 2016 and 2017, we have several new projects under development, including projects on improvised explosive devices, on fragile States and on supporting the Biological Weapons Convention.

At UNIDIR, our passion for disarmament, peace and security is founded on the belief that security for all peoples is the bedrock for economic and social development, human rights and the rule of law. Effective global governance requires that a silo-based approach be replaced with one that recognizes the interlinked nature of the challenges that we face — challenges whose complexity shows the limits of each silo's individual capacities. At UNIDIR, we break up silos within and outside our traditional areas of research, that is, by not confining work to particular weapons-specific portfolios. Rather, we explore linkages among disarmament, security and sustainable development.

In that regard, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of particular importance and of direct relevance to UNIDIR in several aspects. We are working together with other United Nations agencies and Member

States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all. Supporting the needs of developing countries is a responsibility of UNIDIR under its statute, and several of the SDGs relate thematically to our work. For example, Goal 11 concerns making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In promoting peaceful societies, Goal 16 represents broader acknowledgement that the work to curb armed violence — work of which disarmament-related research and activities are part — contributes to development. Paragraph 35 of the Declaration of the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (resolution 70/1) notes:

"Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development."

We also recognize the importance of bringing gender into the disarmament discourse. In line with the broader policy of the United Nations, UNIDIR is committed to gender equality. As we know, conflict and insecurity affect women, men, boys and girls differently, and those differences shape the dynamics of every conflict. The interaction between gender and conflict has major implications for how we should think about conflict, security and opportunities for peace.

In that regard, our most recent report, entitled *Gender, Development and Nuclear Weapons*, which we produced in collaboration with the International Law and Policy Institute in Oslo, discusses the relationship between nuclear weapons and gender, particularly how and why the two are connected — both to each other and to shared global agendas, such as sustainable development. I was very happy to see a good turnout at last week's launch of the report, which was but one of this year's several side events of the First Committee organized by UNIDIR, or which featured it, its work and its expertise.

As a voluntarily funded part of the United Nations system, we have to constantly prove to our funders that our work produces value for money. We are acutely aware that, since the onset of the global financial crisis, there are greater demands for transparency and accountability in the public sector and an expectation that more can be done with less. For us, that constitutes an impact imperative — a requirement to turn our ideas into impact or "knowledge for action", as our motto goes. We believe that the ultimate test of any policy is

whether or not it makes the difference that it sets out to make.

UNIDIR is part of the United Nations disarmament machinery, having been established by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It was mandated, inter alia, to assist ongoing negotiations on disarmament. Sadly, the multilateral disarmament machinery is not delivering the results that it should. One can claim that UNIDIR is one of the few parts of that search for cooperative solutions that is in fact currently working as it should.

As a small extrabudgetary entity, UNIDIR's funding and operations model is not always easy to fit with the bureaucracy of the United Nations. At the same time, UNIDIR is constantly punching far above its weight and has the unique advantage of being cross-cutting with respect to both the issues and the stakeholders that it brings together. We also provide a productive and constructive outlet to the dissatisfaction with the stalled United Nations disarmament machinery and help to design and implement change.

In conclusion, an institute such as UNIDIR will always only be as good and attractive to our current and potential funders as the quality of its most recent substantive work. That is our reputation. In other words, we are constantly held accountable, which is actually one of our strengths. With a highly competent and dedicated staff, we have been able to deliver results, and our reputation remains solid. With the First Committee's continued support, UNIDIR will continue to serve the Member States and the entire disarmament community in their efforts towards attaining a safer, more secure world.

The Acting Chair: I shall now suspend the meeting to give delegations an opportunity to hold an informal interactive discussion with the panellists through an informal question-and-answer session.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.05 p.m.

The Acting Chair: On behalf of all delegations, I wish to thank our panellists for their presentations and for an interesting interaction.

The Committee will now begin its consideration of cluster 5, "Other disarmament measures and international security". I once again urge all speakers to kindly observe the time limit of five minutes when speaking in a national capacity and seven minutes when

speaking on behalf of a group. The Committee will continue to use the buzzer to remind delegations when the time limit has been reached.

I now give he floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/71/L.44, A/C.1/71/L.45 and A/C.1/71/L.63.

Ms. Jenie (Indonesia): I am very pleased to speak on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

While noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest information technology and means of telecommunication, the Movement is concerned that such technology and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both the civil and military fields.

The Movement highlights the important socioeconomic opportunities, in particular for developing countries, provided by information and communications technology (ICT) and underscores the need to prevent all discriminatory practices and policies that hinder access by developing countries to the benefits of information and communications technology. NAM notes with concern cases of the illegal use of new information and communications technology, including through social networks, to the detriment of the member States of the Movement and expresses its strongest rejection of those violations. The Movement stresses the impor tance of ensuring that the use of such technology is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, especially the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and internationally known rules of peaceful coexistence among States.

While taking into account ongoing efforts within the United Nations, NAM calls upon Member States to further promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information and security, as well as possible strategies to address threats emerging in this field.

NAM calls for the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict, and ensuring instead its use for exclusively peaceful purposes, which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICT for contributing to social and economic development. The Movement furthermore highlights the central role of Governments in areas related to the public policy aspects of ICT security.

As the use of ICT has the potential to endanger international peace and security, countering such emerging security challenges and reducing their risk are essential. The development of a legal framework to address these issues should be pursued within the United Nations, with the active and equal participation of all States.

The Movement also emphasizes the importance of observing environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms-limitation agreements. Furthermore, the Movement reaffirms that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the such norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

NAM would like to introduce three draft resolutions under this cluster: draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.63, entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium"; draft resolution, A/C.1/71/L.44, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control"; and draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.45, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", for which NAM would very much welcome support by all United Nations States Members.

Ms. Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We will focus our remarks on an area that is of particular importance to our region — women and disarmament. We are indeed pleased that the First Committee will once again address this issue.

We unequivocally agree that disarmament does not exist in a vacuum. We also agree that its objectives cannot be achieved in isolation. We affirm that disarmament is fundamentally about people. In that context, CARICOM is of the firm view that the continued consideration of gender perspectives can

advance the achievement of disarmament goals, away from the traditional male-centric discourse to one that embraces an interdisciplinary, multidimensional and humanitarian approach. Indeed, through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community pledged to leave no one behind. CARICOM asserts that it is high time for this Committee to operationalize that mantra in the context of gender and disarmament.

The issue is of particular concern to CARICOM member States, as statistics have revealed that small arms and light weapons are the dominant weapons of warfare within our region. Some 70 per cent of homicides are perpetrated through the use of firearms. While men are most often the victims of gun crimes, it is the women who are left to become the sole breadwinners for families and who risk falling into poverty. Women also have to deal with the resulting emotional and mental trauma that follows in the wake of such crimes. For that reason, we believe that women are indispensable agents in the disarmament process.

We applaud the progress made in advancing the women and peace and security agenda. CARICOM welcomed the two significant events that took place in 2015 to mark the fifteenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). First, there was the global study detailing the achievements and challenges of the past 15 years of efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which also made recommendations for the future of the agenda. Secondly, there was the open debate in the Security Council (see S/PV.7533), together with the adoption of Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), it being the eighth resolution on women and peace and security. CARICOM member States took part in the open debate and will again actively participate in the next open debate of the Council on that topic, which takes place tomorrow, 25 October.

We cannot create agreements for the entire international community without considering half of the world's population. As such, CARICOM considered it essential to give the issue of gender-based violence, or violence against women, a prominent place in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), having it reflected both in the preamble and in article 7.4. Accordingly, each exporting State party, when assessing risks related to an export authorization, shall take into account the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

In that respect, CARICOM welcomes draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.37, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", piloted by my own delegation. The draft resolution was born in 2010, in specific recognition of the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in keeping with Trinidad and Tobago's leading role in the field of crime and security in the quasi-cabinet of the CARICOM Heads of State and Government. Resolution 69/61, on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, remains the only General Assembly resolution to address the vital links between women and disarmament.

CARICOM welcomes this year's substantive additions to the draft text as it relates to the language of the 2015 review on the women and peace and security agenda and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are pleased with the retention of language on the Arms Trade Treaty and its provisions on gender-based violence, which oblige States parties to take into account the risk of conventional weapons being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence and of violence against children. Those inclusions in the draft text are timely as we assess the current backdrop of intensified conflict and armed violence worldwide.

We would like to note that, while there have been some advances, we need to make greater progress on entrenching the gender perspective in disarmament, arms-control and non-proliferation policies and programmes. The draft resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control provides an opportunity to solidify our consideration of this issue as a core and cross-cutting agenda item. We are also encouraged by the number of Member States that have already co-sponsored this year's draft resolution, and we invite others to join. We also welcome the Secretary General's report (A/71/137) on Member States' implementation of resolution 69/61, on the same topic, and take special note of the actions being undertaken at the local, national and regional levels, as well as within the United Nations system, to promote, support and strengthen the effective participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, particularly as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and conflict.

CARICOM welcomes the valuable work being undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for

Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) to integrate women in a practical way in efforts to prevent and reduce armed violence and promote disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. We are especially pleased with the UNLIREC assistance programme on enhancing the implementation of resolution 65/69, on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

As an indispensable partner in our region, UNLIREC continues to contribute to focused dialogue on creating gender-based programmes and policies through pioneering and exploratory research. UNLIREC has published two innovative publications showcasing women in the region as forces of change in advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation global agenda and has improved access to professional training by female law-enforcement personnel and legal officials in combating illicit small-arms trafficking. UNLIREC is also undertaking ATT gender-risk-assessment training for officials in the region, which assists CARICOM States to fulfil their internationally binding obligations under the Treaty.

In conclusion, CARICOM wishes to emphasize the important role played by civil society, including women's organizations, in raising awareness and focusing public attention on advancing women's political, social and economic empowerment in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

As UNASUR countries, we wish to express our viewpoint with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.17, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". Information and communication technology should be a tool to promote inclusion, development and peace. States and non-State actors should not use them in violation of international law or human rights law or of any principle of peaceful relations among sovereign nations or of the privacy of citizens.

At the UNASUR Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Paramaribo in 2013, espionage and the interception of telecommunications were strongly rejected. They constitute a threat to security and are serious violations of human, civil and political rights, international law and national sovereignty. They also damage relations between nations. In order to address this issue in South America, the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR decided to speed up the development of projects for cyberdefence and more secure interconnection of fibre-optic networks among our countries. Their objective is to make our telecommunications safer and to strengthen the development of regional technologies and promote digital inclusion.

Since we are aware of the development of offensive capabilities in cyberspace as part of military doctrine, member States of UNASUR share a growing concern at the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and the potential escalation of conflicts driven by cyberattacks. In this vein, we support a strengthening of the international standards and principles applicable to States in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, while at the same time safeguarding the right to privacy and the free flow of information.

Member States of UNASUR follow with interest discussions in the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established pursuant to resolution 70/237. The recognition that international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations apply to the behaviour of States in the use of information and telecommunications technology will make it possible for us to make strides towards a stable and peaceful digital environment. The international community should also consider the need to draw up specific legally binding standards to meet the challenges of the digital age.

Among other specific standards that we should seriously consider, member States of UNASUR propose the adoption of a no-first-use standard on offensive operations using information and telecommunications technology. In addition to reducing the possibilities of an arms race, the no-first-use rule would ensure that such technologies would not be used as tools of aggression.

We regret the fact that participation in the Group decreased by two experts from UNASUR countries in 2016. That makes it even more urgent for the Group of Experts to move towards a more inclusive format, open to all States Members of the United Nations, thereby

making it possible for more countries to participate in its discussions, particularly developing countries.

In conclusion, UNASUR countries agree with the assertion that international law, above all the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintain peace and stability and promote safe, open, peaceful and accessible information and communications technology. We also highlight the fact that effective cooperation among States is essential for reducing threats related to the use of information and telecommunications technology, including the issue of responsibility for cyberattacks.

Mr. Ben Sliman (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, the Group of Arab States endorses the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The Arab Group reiterates that, according to the Charter of the United Nations, finding solutions through multilateral action is the best way to strengthen and deal with disarmament and international security issues. The Arab Group urges all Member States to renew and implement their commitments as part of their multilateral efforts. We are convinced of the importance of the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Arab Group would like to express its concern regarding the increase in global military expenditures. A large amount of such expenditures could be spent to bolster development and combat poverty and disease throughout the world, in particular in developing countries, including in Arab countries. We would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in 1987. Priority must also be given to evaluating the negative impact of military expenditures on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction is a real danger to international peace and security. It threatens the ecological balance of our planet and the sustainable development of all countries. That is why the Arab Group stipulates that it is very important for international disarmament forums to give priority to environmental standards when they negotiate treaties and conventions on disarmament and on arms limitation. All countries must make a commitment to

upholding respect for environmental standards when treaties and conventions are implemented.

In conclusion, the Arab Group expresses its concern with regard to the use of information and communications technology to cause harm in the political, military and science spheres. The Arab Group welcomes the positive contributions made by the United Nations on this vital issue. Furthermore, the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in the areas of cybersecurity and information security remains ongoing. The Arab Group reiterate, the importance of continuing international cooperation in this area.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/71/L.54.

Mr. Nath (India): India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

India has the honour to introduce draft decision A/C.1/71/L.54, which proposes the inclusion of an item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" in the provisional agenda for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament is an important and dynamic subject that affects the interests of all States. Science and technology is a critical factor for economic and social development, in particular for developing countries. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of science and technology should be promoted through all relevant means, including technology transfer, the sharing of information and the exchange of equipment and materials.

Scientific and technological developments have both civilian and military applications, including weapons of mass destruction, and can even lead to the emergence of entirely new weapon systems, with an impact on international security. The misuse of information and communications technology for criminal or hostile purposes, as well as for the potential development of lethal autonomous weapons systems, has raised concerns. We believe that there is a need to closely follow scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on security environments

and disarmament, particularly when they give rise to proliferation concerns.

While progress in science and technology for civilian applications should be encouraged, it is imperative that international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications be effectively regulated, while keeping in mind the legitimate defence requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls establishing appropriate standards in this field should be strengthened and effectively implemented. Relevant international agreements in this field should be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States party to those agreements.

Given all of those aspects, there is a need for dialogue among Member States to find a viable forward-looking approach, taking into account current trends and possible future directions. We therefore hope that, as in past years, the First Committee will endorse draft decision A/C.1/71/L.54, as introduced by India.

Mr. Jadoon (Pakistan): Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia under this cluster on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The fast pace of scientific innovations and emerging weapons technologies carry implications for international peace and security. In many cases, how international law can and should govern their development, deployment and use is proving to be a challenge. While the international community is justifiably focused on weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, the rapid deployment of new weapon technologies in the conventional domain also poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability at the regional and global levels.

The development of lethal autonomous weapons systems remains a particular source of concern. These weapons systems are by nature unethical, because their use involves delegating life-and-death decisions to machines. They will not be able to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Lethal autonomous weapons systems are rightly being described as the next revolution in military affairs, similar to the introduction of gunpowder and nuclear weapons. They would significantly lower the threshold of going to war, and threaten international and regional peace and security. They would also negatively affect progress on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Their likely proliferation to non-State actors and terrorists adds another dangerous dimension to their existence.

Developments in the field of artificial intelligence need to be appropriately addressed and regulated. They should not outpace the evolution of the regulations that govern them. Machine-learning and artificial-intelligence applications, if left unregulated, can wreak havoc.

The introduction of lethal autonomous weapons systems into national arsenals, in our view, would be illegal, unethical, inhumane and destabilizing for international peace and security, with grave consequences, and it would run the risk of making users unaccountable. In the light of those factors, Pakistan has consistently called for a pre-emptive ban on their further development and use. States currently developing such weapons should place an immediate moratorium on their production and meaningfully engage with the international community to address their concerns. The upcoming fifth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons provides an excellent opportunity for considering the issue and deciding the next steps in this area.

In our view, the use of armed drones, especially against civilians, constitutes a violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and human rights law. Their use also contravenes State sovereignty and the Charter's restrictions on the legitimate use of force for self-defence. The United Nations Human Rights Council, jurists and human rights groups have all opposed armed drones targeting civilians through surgical strikes and consider their use to be tantamount to extrajudicial killings. The proliferation of armed drone technology is making their use ever more dangerous and widespread, with the potential for threatening international security. Even more challenging would be the task of preventing and deterring non-State actors and terrorists from acquiring armed drones. The development and use of armed drones therefore needs to be brought under international regulations and control.

Similarly, the growing prospect of cyberwarfare also needs to be addressed urgently before such weapons break down the entire edifice of international security. In recent years, information and communications technology (ICT) has not only been used for surveillance

and espionage, but also as a means of waging cyberattacks. The misuse and unregulated use of ICT could lead to serious implications for international peace and security in the event of a cyberattack launched against critical infrastructure. The hostile use of cybertechnologies is fast approaching the stage where they could be characterized as weapons of mass destruction, and not just mass disruption.

As a member of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, mandated by resolution 68/243, Pakistan has remained positively and constructively engaged in the work of the Group and welcomed the Group's 2015 report (see A/70/174). This year we also co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.17, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", to be introduced by the Russian Federation. We were disappointed at not being included in the Group of Governmental Experts established under resolution 70/237.

Four Groups of Governmental Experts have conducted their work in this area, while the fifth Group is already in progress. It is now high time that the work that is being done in the smaller setting of the Group be brought to a broader, multilateral setting and to representative forums, such as the Conference on Disarmament and the General Assembly. The views of all Member States, irrespective of their level of development, are vitally important and need to be taken into account for the development of universal norms in this area.

Mr. Hall (United States of America): My remarks today will address views of the United States on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.

It is a fundamental goal of the United States to create a climate in which all States are able to enjoy the benefits of cyberspace, have incentives to cooperate and avoid conflict and have good reason not to disrupt or attack one another — a concept we often call international cyberstability. For several years, we have sought to achieve this goal by nurturing a broad consensus on what constitutes responsible State behaviour in cyberspace. In fact, 2015 was a particularly productive year for this growing international consensus. The Group of 20 statement; the report of the 2015 United Nations Group

of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (see A/70/174); the related draft resolution A/C.1/70/L.45, which was adopted as resolution 70/237; and a variety of high-level bilateral statements all reinforced our approach to enhancing international cyberstability.

The United States believes that international cyberstability and conflict prevention are best advanced through the application of existing international law, in conjunction with additional voluntary cyber-specific norms of responsible State behaviour in peacetime and practical, confidence-building and conflict-prevention measures. Since 2009, the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security has served as a productive and groundbreaking expert-level venue to build support for this framework. The consensus recommendations of the three reports of the Group of Governmental Experts, from 2010 (see A/65/201), 2013 (see A/68/156) and 2015 (see A/70/174) set the standard for the international community on a framework of international stability in cyberspace, which includes affirmation of the applicability of existing international law to States' activities in cyberspace, support for certain voluntary norms of responsible State behaviour in peacetime, and the implementation of practical confidence-building measures. The governmental experts process will continue to play a central role in our efforts to promote this framework.

We recently started the fifth round of governmental experts negotiations at the United Nations, and we are hopeful that the 25 nations participating in the Group will be able to make continued progress in this area. During the first meeting of the current Group of Governmental Experts, in August 2016, all experts made serious contributions and expressed a willingness to build upon the recommendations of the 2015 report. In particular, we were pleased that experts supported an approach for the Group of Governmental Experts to offer further considerations and a context for Member States to affirm and implement the consensus recommendations put forward by earlier Governmental Experts reports. We believe this should be our first priority.

We hope that the next Governmental Experts report will continue to expand upon how existing international law applies to States' cyberactivities. In that regard, we hope to build on the 2015 report, which, among other

things, highlights that the Charter of the United Nations applies in its entirety to the cyberdomain, affirms the applicability of States' inherent right of self-defence as recognized in Article 51 of the Charter and notes the applicability of the law of armed conflict's fundamental principles of humanity, necessity, proportionality and distinction. Our hope is that the current Group of Governmental Experts will continue to make progress in all areas of common concern, particularly in those areas where we have been unable to find consensus in the past.

The United States looks forward to future dialogue with the international community on these issues. We favour international engagement in developing a consensus on appropriate State behaviour in cyberspace, based on existing international law. We cannot support other approaches that would only serve to legitimize repressive State practices.

Ms. Claringbould (Netherlands): The annual cybersecurity assessment of the Netherlands for 2016 again concluded that geopolitical tensions have increasingly manifested themselves in cyberspace. States and other actors are increasingly using cyberoperations to pursue their strategic interests, not just for military purposes, but for coercive political purposes as well.

Cyberoperations have the potential to cause instability in international relations and could present risks for international peace and security. As a highly digitized country, the Netherlands is greatly concerned about these developments. Yet, at the same time, the international community is taking steps to address these risks. The reports produced by the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security are of great importance in this regard. The Netherlands is therefore grateful to have been invited to participate in the current Group. Given the extent of the threat, the Group must remain ambitious.

Moreover, the Netherlands continues to promote inclusive dialogue on responsible State behaviour in cyberspace through various activities. In the best tradition of support for development of the international legal order, the Netherlands organized consultations between State legal advisers on the *Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations*. As an academic overview, the *Manual* is

the pride of The Hague process, a series of activities designed to increase clarity on how international law applies in cyberspace. As part of the process, the Netherlands organized a second consultations meeting on the *Tallinn Manual 2.0* in February 2015, which was attended by more than 50 States.

In addition, the Netherlands and the United States supported the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, as well as the organization of a series of three workshops on norms of behaviour, international law and countering the spread of malicious tools and techniques. The workshops successfully brought together diplomats and representatives of the private sector, civil society and the technical community to discuss issues of cyberstability. I recommend the UNIDIR report (A/71/162), not just as an example of how bringing different stakeholders together can enrich the debate, but also for the very useful and practical recommendations it contains for the ongoing diplomatic processes.

Another way to bring together the various actors that are influenced by and that themselves influence stability in cyberspace is to establish a global commission on the stability of cyberspace. The commission, which is being set up by the EastWest Institute and The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, will be launched early next year and will aim to serve as a platform through which the relevant stakeholders can develop norms and policies that can guide responsible behaviour in cyberspace, with a view to making it more stable and secure.

Lastly, I would like to draw the Committee's attention to a particular risk. Certain cyberoperations are not just targeting other actors anymore, but are disrupting and damaging the ability of the Internet itself to provide services to the public. The international community should recognize such attacks as a global threat to the peaceful use of information and communications technology for the common good of humankind, which the previous Group of Governmental Experts recognized as an aspiration of fundamental importance. It should be a norm of responsible State behaviour that the availability and integrity of core Internet function is not deliberately targeted.

All the efforts I mentioned are aimed at making digitized international relations and cyberspace itself more stable and secure. Promoting inclusiveness and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders is at the

core of those efforts. The Netherlands believes that they are essential if we are to reduce the risk of conflict and maintain an open, free and secure cyberspace.

Ms. D'Ambrosio (Italy): My remarks today will address the topic of gender and disarmament. In order to be effective and sustainable, our efforts towards peace and security must take gender perspectives into account. In that regard, Italy has been at the forefront of related international efforts, particularly in conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery.

Italy supported resolution 1325 (2000) from its very beginning. With this historic document, the Security Council for the first time addressed not only the disproportionate impact of war on women, but also women's pivotal role in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in the achievement of sustainable peace. Two aims underpin our current national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000): reducing the negative impact of conflict and post-conflict situations on women and children, on the one hand, and promoting the participation of women as agents of change in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, on the other.

Women are affected by armed violence in different ways than men. However, their active role in conflict prevention, reconciliation and reconstruction is crucial and must be acknowledged. Some specific objectives of Italy's action plan include encouraging the presence of women in its national armed forces and State police, as well as in peace operations in conflict areas; protecting the rights of women, children and the most vulnerable groups fleeing from conflict or living in post-conflict areas; and strengthening the role of women in decision-making and peacebuilding processes.

As recognized in resolution 65/69, gender approaches are also critical in disarmament and arms control. The relationship between gender and disarmament is complex. On the one hand, conflicts have different impacts on different segments of the population. Men typically constitute the primary victims of direct armed violence, whereas women and children usually make up the majority of what is known as collateral damage, becoming refugees and internally displaced people. Moreover, together with children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, women suffer from the indirect impacts of conflict to a greater extent — for instance, in terms of denied access to key infrastructure and services. Adding a gender dimension

to the disarmament debate means identifying the needs of people falling into those different categories and formulating adequate responses to them. For Italy, such inclusion is key in mine-action assistance programmes so as to ensure that support takes fully into account the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men, and contributes to the long-term stability of mine-affected communities.

The Arms Trade Treaty, the result of comprehensive and inclusive negotiations, has the potential to significantly contribute to international peace and security. It makes the international trade in conventional arms more responsible and transparent and contributes to eradicating the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. To that end, Italy spared no effort in facilitating the inclusion of the prevention of gender-based violence in the Treaty. A specific reference to gender-based violence as a violation of international humanitarian law can make a dramatic difference for all vulnerable groups that are victims of armed violence.

In Italy's view, equal access and the full participation of women in decision-making processes and in efforts aimed at conflict prevention and resolution are essential not only to promote peace and security, but also to ensure sustainable development. Accordingly, the economic empowerment of women is both a goal in itself and a tool to be used to achieve long-term stability and security in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Acting Chair, on the way in which you have been conducting the work of the First Committee.

My delegation endorses the statements made earlier, respectively, by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and by my delegation on behalf of the Union of South American Nations.

We continue to closely follow the work being carried out by the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and welcome the renewal of its mandate. Of particular interest is the position taken by the Group in its latest report (see A/71/174) on the applicability of international law to regulating cyberspace, with an emphasis on the principles of sovereign equality, the settlement of international disputes through peaceful

means, the decision to refrain from using force in international relations, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

Those preliminary recommendations represent important progress in our approach to dealing with cyberspace, but leave unfinished the debate on the final course of action that must be taken by the international community. This debate includes at least two major trends. One favours the prohibition of the militarization of cyberspace, and the other advocates only its control and regulation. The Group of Governmental Experts faces other fundamental challenges, such as defining what constitutes a weapon in cyberspace, what kind of cybernetic operation would constitute an act of aggression or breach of the peace under the criteria of the Charter of the United Nations, and how to attribute responsibility for illegal acts in cyberspace.

According to a recent report from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, more than 40 States are developing military cybercapabilities and, of those, at least 12 have directed such development towards offensive activities in the framework of cyberwarfare. One country in particular maintains an advantage position in capacity development to launch cyberattacks with a deployed cyberforce of 6,200 personnel divided into 33 teams assigned to areas of defence, espionage and cyberspace attacks. Such concrete steps add yet another theatre of war to those of land, sea and air.

Considering that a general and massive cyberattack could simultaneously harm numerous components of a State's vital infrastructure — such as the generation, transmission and distribution of energy, air and marine transport, banking and financial services, online commerce, water and food supply, public health, and defence systems — which could cause the collapse of the State at an incalculable human cost, we should be concerned by the course that the debate on whether to prohibit or permit the militarization of cyberspace is taking.

A nightmarish task lies before the Group of Governmental Experts, and it must address that task in a short amount of time. Several of the issues, which we have already mentioned, are of a technical nature and should possibly be dealt with only by the Group, but other issues warrant a broader debate. The fourth report of the Group of Governmental Experts reiterated

that, given the pace with which information and telecommunications technology is evolving, there is a need for

"regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as regular dialogue through bilateral, regional and multilateral forums and other international organizations" (*A/70/174, para. 18*).

Venezuela calls on the Heads of the relevant bodies of the United Nations and on the Secretary-General to promote such an institutional dialogue and broaden the understanding and participation of States in that regard.

In conclusion, we reiterate that we have before us the possibility of preventing the militarization of cyberspace, as we still have time. Let us not lose the opportunity to leave future generations a peaceful cyberspace.

Mr. Carpenter (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland firmly supports the United Nations-led process on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, with the establishment of the Groups of Governmental Experts. We are witnessing an increase in cyberthreats originating from both State actors and non-State actors alike. Such activities have become increasingly targeted, complex and sophisticated. In confronting that development, it is important that the international community clarify the rules that govern cyberspace and strengthen international cooperation.

We welcome the fact that this year's Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security has taken a broad approach. It is examining how international law applies to cyberspace, what are the principles, norms and rules in force in connection with responsible State behaviour, and what are the foreseeable measures aimed at confidence- and capacity-building.

Switzerland is pleased to be a member of the fifth Group of Governmental Experts, which met for first time in August 2016. We highly value the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Group with a view to fostering an open, free and secure cyberspace. In its participation in the Group of Governmental Experts, Switzerland will closely adhere to the mandate given by the General Assembly in resolution 70/237. My country

has welcomed the three substantive consensus reports that were adopted by the previous groups and submitted to the General Assembly. We are committed to building upon the existing consensus of those preceding Groups of Governmental Experts and to taking their achievements further.

We fully endorse the applicability of the existing body of international law to the activities of States in cyberspace, including the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety and the rights and freedoms expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The reports of the Group of Governmental Experts in 2013 and 2015 confirmed the applicability of international law. Their explicit, though non-exhaustive, reference to a number of international law principles is a strong affirmation of the rule of law in cyberspace. Building upon that crucial consensus, Switzerland intends to contribute further to a clearer distinction between binding international law principles, on the one hand, and voluntary, non-binding norms, on the other hand.

In November and February, the next two meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts will take place in Geneva, which is emerging as a growing international hub of expertise in digital space and cybersecurity. Over the next few months, we will also need to reflect on the various options for the way forward. The Group of Governmental Experts has already developed the groundwork for a substantial consensus-based outcome and will further advance its work until next summer. It is important for the Group to also consider ways of how to universalize and operationalize the recommendations of past Group reports and those that may be agreed upon this year, in order to generate a sustainable impact at the global level. Switzerland is open to studying a variety of modalities to take the invaluable work of the Group of Governmental Experts to the next level. In doing so, we will take into account such criteria as inclusiveness, legitimacy, effectiveness and interdisciplinarity.

But above all, we look forward to continued and constructive debates both within the Group and with all the relevant stakeholders. Let us not forget what is at stake — we all have a shared interest, goal and responsibility, which is to maintain an open, free and secure cyberspace that contributes to peace and prosperity for all humankind.

Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Paraguay recognizes that scientific and technological progress gives Governments, businesses and individuals access to new information and communication technology and that it is necessary to continue and foster scientific and technological progress to, inter alia, incentivize the future development of civilization, the extension of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the increase of humankind's creative capacity and the achievement of new improvements in the flow of information within the international community. The delegation of Paraguay also recognizes that scientific and technological progress can have both civilian and military applications and that such progress must be maintained and fostered, especially in the civilian context.

Accordingly, the delegation of Paraguay notes the asymmetry in the scientific and technological development among States and the limited access to science and technology benefits by the majority of the world's population, which resides in developing countries. Paraguay also stresses the links among disarmament, non-proliferation, international peace and security and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in other recently adopted framework documents on technology transfers to developing countries.

The delegation of Paraguay reaffirms its conviction that the development of science and technology and access to information and communications and their use must be within the framework of respect for human rights in the broadest sense and for fundamental freedoms. They must contribute to upholding international stability and security. They must encourage cooperation and friendly relations among States, while respecting their national sovereignty, and they must refrain from criminal or terrorist uses.

In that context, the delegation of Paraguay calls on the delegations of Member States to make their utmost effort to ensure that the monitoring, interception and collection of data, as well as the dissemination of those data, take place within the framework of the rule of law and legitimate goals. Furthermore, such efforts must respect and safeguard human rights and the fundamental freedoms of individuals, especially the right to privacy. They must refrain from using science and technology and access to information and communications for espionage or other purposes that undermine the sovereignty of other States or hinder cooperation and

friendly relations among them. Member States must prevent and fight terrorism and other transnational crimes with measures and actions in accordance with international law, respect for human rights and the rule of law. As far as multilateralism is concerned, they should adopt rules that regulate progress in the area of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, with the aim, inter alia, of closing the technology gap between developed and developing countries.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.17.

Mr. Yermakov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We can all see that in our world today information and communication technology has become one of the main challenges to global development. Increasingly, information and communication technology is being used for political, military, criminal or terrorist purposes. States and private companies, and often ordinary citizens as well, are becoming targets of computer attacks. The Internet is actively exploited by terrorists and criminals. The annual damage to the global economy caused by the malicious use of information and communication technology amounts to billions of dollars. This situation is a source of legitimate concern to us. In fact, it directly undermines the security and sovereignty of States, creates a chain reaction of mistrust and stokes the information arms race. The prevention of conflicts in the information space and the preservation of its security and stability is a key challenge in the area of international information security.

The key purpose of cooperation in the area of international information security is the prevention of conflicts in the information space and the preservation of its security and stability. The unanimity with which a growing number of States supports that idea is a positive trend. We hope that it will determine the conduct of international discussions on international information security in the years ahead. It is clear that no country in the world can overcome such problems on its own. We are convinced that that task can be shouldered only by the United Nations, which, as we all know, has managed to successfully fulfil the role of peacekeeper for more than 70 years.

This year once again, the Russian Federation introduces the draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in

the context of international security", for consideration by the First Committee. Draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.17 is based on our usual approach to addressing international information security, which has been discussed in the First Committee for the past 20 years. We express our sincere gratitude to all States that have already sponsored the Russian document. Their number already exceeds 60, including those that have joined this initiative as co-sponsors for the first time, which demonstrates that the international community understands the importance of issues related to international information security and that it is ready to continue to discuss them at the United Nations.

In line with the Russian resolution that was adopted by consensus last year (resolution 70/237), which had 84 sponsors, the fifth Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security began its work in August. An additional three meetings of the Group are scheduled for 2017. We are pleased to note that the Group has expanded and is now made up of 25 experts. It is clear that an increasing number of countries are keen to make their contribution to international discussions on international information security and to strengthen cooperation in that area.

It is important for the Group of Governmental Experts to include not only those States that are key players in the information and communication technology (ICT) field, but also countries that have just started to develop that area. The foundation has already been laid for such constructive work. The fourth Group of Governmental Experts, which completed its work last year, drafted recommendations that are viewed by many experts as fledgling norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States in the use of ICT. Drafting such a code of conduct will be of key importance for strengthening international information security because it will provide an opportunity to prevent a free-for-all in the information space, build trust among States and strengthen international cooperation in that area.

In contrast with last year's resolution, this year's draft mainly contains technical amendments. In conclusion, I hope that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus. We urge all States Members of the United Nations to support this Russian document and, if possible, to co-sponsor it.

The Chair: Before giving the floor to the next speaker on my list, may I remind all delegations to limit their interventions to five minutes when speaking in their national capacity.

Mr. Hyung-Min Kim (Australia): In April, the Australian Government released its second cybersecurity strategy, which sets out Australia's vision for an open, free and secure Internet. It establishes a national cyberpartnership among Governments, business and the research community to advance Australia's cybersecurity. The strategy's key themes are developing strong cyberdefences through detection, deterrence and response, enhancing our international engagement through the appointment of a cyber Ambassador, promoting growth and innovation in Australia's cybersecurity companies and creating a cyber-smart nation so that Australians have the appropriate skills and knowledge for the digital age.

Australia attaches great importance to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. We wish to thank the Chair of the Group, Mr. Karsten Geier, for his very useful briefing on the work of the Group, presented to the First Committee on 21 October (see A/C.1/71/PV.17). The Group is continuing its important deliberations on existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, the identification of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States, how international law applies to States' use of information and communications technologies, confidence-building measures and capacity-building.

Having chaired the Group in 2012-2013, Australia is pleased to have been selected to return to the Group in 2016. The work of the Group is cumulative. We hope the current Group will build on the previous reports, and in particular, upon the 2015 report (see A/70/174), which contained an important list of 11 voluntary non-binding norms. Those norms have wide currency and are already achieving broad acceptance among Member States. That suggests that the Group responded to a genuine need from Member States and identified the right norms. They deserve further consideration by the Group and by the international community. A challenge for the Group is to provide clear guidance to Member States on the complex issues of the behaviour of States in cyberspace. We hope that the Group will be able to meet that challenge and provide practical guidance

on international law, norms, confidence-building measures and capacity-building.

The Group operates by consensus. We are certain that, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Geier, the Group will deliver a further consensus report in June next year. Following that event, we would welcome substantive consideration by the Committee of that report and its predecessors. That should take the form of a resolution in which the Assembly provides a detailed response to this important work. We suggest that it would be appropriate for that consideration to take place before further work is mandated by the General Assembly. Australia is pleased to support the draft resolution on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. Like other delegations, we welcome the commencement of the work of the 2016 Group and look forward to a successful outcome in 2017.

Mr. Abbani (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): Algeria has the honour to deliver this statement in support of the statements made earlier today by the representatives of Indonesia and Tunisia, respectively, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of Arab States.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) provide opportunities to achieve economic and social development across nations, given their growing importance in civilian and military applications. Cyberspace has also become an indispensable tool in many areas, notably defence and security. However, the use of ICT for non-peaceful purposes, especially by terrorist and criminal groups, has become a genuine danger to international peace and security, requiring us to secure cyberspace and enhance international cooperation in order to prevent and deny those groups any means of using such technologies for criminal purposes.

We believe that cybersecurity is a worldwide challenge, especially in the light of growing security and electronic threats and their recent implications for the security, stability and infrastructure of many countries. In that regard, we have adopted a comprehensive approach that takes security and cybersecurity into consideration in order to counter cybercrimes by adopting mechanisms for cooperation in order to address such challenges. In 2015, we established an anti-cybercrime authority to protect national security by countering crimes, especially those committed

by terrorists, that could threaten national security and stability. We have also ratified Arab and African agreements to counter cybercrimes in order to enhance coordination among those countries and combat such illicit activities.

In May, we organized an international workshop on cybersecurity. Fifteen countries and more than fifty experts in the field of cybersecurity participated in the workshop. They discussed recent technological developments, as well as legislation on cyberspace and policies related to cybersecurity and fighting internet crimes. Experts at the workshop agreed that there is a need for real international cooperation in order to put in place a unified strategy to combat digital crime and recognize the importance of achieving international consensus in the fight against digital crime and cybercrime.

We stress the importance of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which is a very important tool that allows all countries an opportunity to participate in consultations and negotiations on disarmament at the level of United Nations entities. The Office helps countries in implementing treaties that they are party to, as well as implementing mechanisms geared towards enhancing transparency and confidence-building measures. Furthermore, we believe that the application of artificial intelligence could be promising and could help further the interests of humankind. However, we believe that they also include ethical challenges and that the international community must therefore enact regulations to regulate the use of artificial intelligence.

In conclusion, we would like to stress the importance of taking environmental standards into consideration when agreeing on disarmament and arms control agreement and when we negotiate treaties and agreements on disarmament within international forums.

Ms. Chai (Singapore): My full statement will be available on PaperSmart. For this thematic discussion, Singapore's statement will focus on cybersecurity.

The revolution in information and communication technologies (ICT) and the Internet have fundamentally changed our way of life. We live in an increasingly networked world where Government infrastructure, businesses and individuals depend on ICT. However, with greater connectivity, global ICT networks inevitably become more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

A successful attack on supranational critical information infrastructures, such as banking, finance or telecommunications, can have a hard-hitting and disproportionate effect on similar critical information infrastructure around the globe. There is a concerted need for us to heighten vigilance and to work together to bolster cybersecurity. We would like to propose some key areas of action.

First, all States have to act. As one of the world's most connected countries, Singapore is particularly susceptible to cyberattacks and cybercrime. We have therefore taken steps to protect our networks and promote a secure ICT environment. In 2015, Singapore established the Cyber Security Agency to raise cybersecurity awareness, provide centralized oversight and develop a robust cybersecurity ecosystem in Singapore. Two weeks ago, we successfully organized Singapore International Cyber Week. Singapore would like to place on record our appreciation to Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Kim Won-Soo for participating in Singapore International Cyber Week. During Singapore International Cyber Week, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong launched Singapore's national cybersecurity strategy. That strategy will guide us in addressing the challenges of cybersecurity and cybercrime in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

Secondly, regional and international cooperation is essential to detecting and countering threats in cyberspace. Singapore is working with fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member States to enhance cybersecurity capacity-building and cooperation within South-East Asia. Singapore has hosted various ASEAN conferences on cybersecurity. To complement ASEAN efforts, Singapore has launched a $10-million ASEAN cyber capacity programme. The programme will host technical and policy-related cybersecurity capacity-building programmes in Singapore with the active involvement of multinational Government and non-Government stakeholders, as well as international organizations.

Singapore has also taken the lead in the development of an ASEAN cyber cooperation strategy and the establishment of ASEAN computer emergency response teams under the ASEAN ICT master plan. Singapore has forged robust working relationships with like-minded partners in our common effort to build a secure and resilient global cyberspace. Singapore has joined the United Kingdom and Japan as a sponsor of the

Cyber Green initiative, which aims to build situational awareness of the cyberthreat landscape through a dedicated Cyber Green ASEAN portal. Singapore has also worked with our international partners to launch a multinational Internet of Things Cybersecurity Standards Working Group initiative.

Thirdly, the United Nations should play a leading role in the development of international cybernorms. We note that discussion on cybersecurity norms has recently coalesced around the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. Singapore welcomes the work of the Group of Governmental Experts. We are pleased to note that the Group has started the process of identifying voluntary, non-binding cybernorms and strengthening common understanding. Singapore strongly supports the development of internationally accepted norms for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace. We furthermore advocate the adoption of operational norms of cyberbehaviour that will allow the international community to establish a practical, working arrangement for the regulation of behaviour in cyberspace. Singapore welcomes the expansion of the most recently established Group of Governmental Experts. However, the Group has to be more inclusive and representative and should make greater efforts to engage the views and input of the wider United Nations membership.

The international community is taking a step in the right direction to enhance the security of the global ICT environment. Let us continue to work together to maintain an open and secure cyberspace for all.

Ms. Lyu Xin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): In today's world, the information technology represented by the Internet has brought about a qualitative leap in productivity and significant digital opportunities and dividends for global economies and social development. In the meantime, the problems of development imbalance, inadequate rules and norms, and unreasonable order in cyberspace are growing ever-more salient. We are seeing increasing infringement upon personal privacy and intellectual property rights and cybercrime. Cybersurveillance, cyberattacks and cyberterrorism are becoming global scourges. The risk of conflict in cyberspace has been increasing.

Cyberspace is the common space of human activities; no one can stand alone. The international community should strengthen cooperation with a sense of urgency to jointly build a community of common destiny in cyberspace that would contribute to lasting peace and common prosperity. To that end, China would like to propose that efforts be made in the following areas.

First, concept leads action. We should reject the old mentality of a zero-sum game of winner-takes-all and instead uphold a new win-win concept — shared by all, built by all and governed by all — in international relationships. We should also put into practice the new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in cyberspace so as to maintain common and lasting security.

Secondly, we should adhere to the principle of the rule of law. The governance of cyberspace should follow the existing principles of international law and the basic norms of international relationships enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, such as sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the fulfilment of international obligations in good faith. Meanwhile, we should actively promote the formulation of global legal instruments on fighting cyberterrorism and cybercrime to advance the rule of law in cyberspace.

Thirdly, we should focus on key areas. The formulation of norms of State behaviour is an important step towards regulating activities and promoting confidence in cyberspace, and should therefore be our priority. As the most authoritative and representative international organization, the United Nations plays an indispensable role in that regard. China and Russia have submitted to the General Assembly a draft international code of conduct for information security. The process of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security has made continuous progress. Based on those efforts, the international community should discuss in depth relevant norms and develop concrete measures in the areas of the protection of critical infrastructure and fighting against cybercrime and cyberterrorism, with a view to building comprehensive and practical norms for cyberspace at an early date.

Fourthly, we should attach equal importance to development and security alike. We should strive to bridge the digital divide, scale up capacity-building assistance to developing countries and overcome

weakness in global cybersecurity. Meanwhile, we need to carefully nurture the sound development of the digital economy. We should neither sacrifice the vitality of development for the sake of absolute security nor sidestep the necessary security supervision under the pretext of market and trade liberalization.

China attaches great importance to cybersecurity and informatization development, and is vigorously implementing its national cyberdevelopment strategy, its national big-data strategy and an Internet-plus action plan to build a digital China and a shared economy. China has constructively participated in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on information security and other United Nations cybersecurity processes, promoted development and cooperation on the digital economy in the Group of 20, pushed forward the initiatives of the Digital Silk Road project and the China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Information Harbour Forum. China has deepened cybersecurity cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa group of countries. Continuous efforts have been made to broaden partnership in cyberspace in order to contribute to building a community with a common destiny in cyberspace.

Mr. Robatjazi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I associate myself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Information and communication technology (ICT) provide immense opportunities and are a crucial resource for the wealth and prosperity of societies. Therefore, every effort should be made to provide an opportunity for the broadest possible use of ICT by all nations. To achieve that objective, it is crucial to ensure the constant availability, reliability, integrity and security of information and to build a safe and secure information technology (IT) environment.

The sovereign right of all States in the field of ICT — which includes the right to the development, acquisition, use, import and export of and access to ICT and related know-how and its means and services, without restriction or discrimination — should be fully respected. Strengthening the security of ICT and preventing the use of ICT and related means for illegal purposes requires all appropriate infrastructural, legal and technical measures to be taken at the national level and related means. Taking national measures is

necessary, but it is not enough. International cooperation is essential to ensuring ICT security, due to the complex nature and the unique features of ICT and related means, as well as the rapid technological advances in this field and the increasing interconnection between the underlying IT networks.

In resolution 70/237, the General Assembly stresses the need to promote common understanding of the issue and the challenges relevant to information security. We believe that such an understanding cannot emerge or be adequately promoted through the indefinite work of a group of governmental experts or by repeatedly asking Member States for written assessment of the findings and recommendations of such a group.

For that reason, in our view, the time is now ripe to engage all States in an open, inclusive and interactive debate by elevating discussions from the initial, exclusive setting of a group of governmental experts to the more broad-based setting of an open-ended working group. An open-ended working group provides the most effective mechanism for building common understanding of related concepts and notions, as well as how international law can apply to State behaviour and the use of IT by States. Such a working group could enable us to build upon the work already done and discuss issues related to ICT security; the nature, scope and severity of threats to ICT; and threats emanating from ICT, and to find ways and means to prevent those threats. In the long run, such a working group could be mandated to prepare the ground for developing an international strategy or programme of action laying out the necessary measures by States. Such an instrument could be considered and adopted by an international conference and reviewed every five years to ensure its continued relevance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran underlines that the consideration of issues related to developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, regardless of its venue, should be carried out on the basis of the following principles and elements.

First, as a general principle, international law is applicable, and therefore should be applied to the use of ICT and related means by States.

Second, nothing shall affect the sovereign right of States in the field of ICT, including the development, acquisition, use, import and export of and access to information and telecommunications know-how,

technologies and means, as well as all related services, without restriction or discrimination.

Third, we must ensure that ICT security at the national level is exclusively the responsibility of individual States. However, owing to the global nature of ICT, States should be encouraged to cooperate with each other in preventing threats resulting from the malicious use of ICT and related means.

Fourth, the right to freedom of expression should fully be respected. At the same time, in no case should this right be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, national laws or the principles of protection of national security, public order, public health, morals and decency.

Fifth, States are responsible for internationally wrongful activities in the use of information and communication technologies and their related means that are clearly attributable to them.

Sixth, building a secure ICT environment for the benefit of all nations should be the main guiding principle. States should therefore refrain in all circumstances from the use of ICT and related means for hostile, restrictive or other illegal purposes, including the development and use of information weapons to undermine or destabilize the political, economic or social systems of other States, to erode their cultural, moral or ethical or religious values or to disseminate information across borders in contravention of international law.

Seventh, States should raise awareness at the national and international levels of the need to preserve and improve ICT security through the responsible use of relevant technologies and means.

In conclusion, given the rapid changes in ICT, we need to keep pace with its development through a continuous process and progressive development of required norms.

The Acting Chair: I again remind all delegations to kindly limit their statements to five minutes when speaking in their national capacity.

Ms. Chand (Fiji): Fiji aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Compliance is a vital element of international peace and security. Compliance with multilateral and international treaties, agreements and other obligations and commitments to prevent the proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction and the regulation and/or reduction of armaments is a central element of international security and a positive step towards complete disarmament. The world would be a much safer place with the complete disarmament of all nuclear weapons and conventional weapons. It is a central reality that those weapons diminish the security of all States. As stated by the Secretary-General in his message at the opening plenary of the 2015 Review Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

"True national security can only be achieved outside and away from the shadow of the nuclear threat. This shadow must be removed for the sake of present and future generations."

One of the ultimate objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to improve the living conditions of all peoples of Earth. If we are to achieve that objective, we have to seriously consider preventing conflict. Conflict has always brought with it immense human suffering and seriously deteriorated living conditions. Fiji believes that complete disarmament and complying with all conventions, treaties and conferences on disarmament is the right step towards conflict prevention. The whole world is looking to us for decisive action to address the growing crises of conflict and international security, as such action is of great value to the world we live in.

International security has taken a new twist in the twenty-first century. Threats are not only coming from States nowadays, but are also originating from within States. Those threats include AIDS, terrorism, poverty, criminal groups, economic mismanagement, corruption, transnational crimes and the Zika and cholera viruses, to name but a few. In addition to those threats, there are environmental challenges such as El Niño, rising sea levels, the effects of climate change and the changes in severe weather patterns.

Fiji and small island developing States are gravely concerned by the effects of those environmental threats, which are affecting the physical and economical survival of our societies. A single such environmental threat could wipe out our economies and set us back decades. In the same vein, we also share the same concerns surrounding the security of information and telecommunications. Those important resources should be used responsibly and in no way compromise

international security. In our view, there has to be more accountability in respect of the use of those resources.

With an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, peace and sustainable development remain core to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The consideration and observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms controls are therefore fundamental and cannot be overlooked in the implementation of the Goals.

Fiji stresses the need to involve women in all nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control negotiations. Women and children have been the vulnerable victims of all conflicts and wars. In that connection, Fiji encourages women to be at the forefront of all disarmament negotiations.

To conclude, Fiji believes that achieving disarmament and maintaining international security requires the unity of Member States. International cooperation and security are of paramount importance in that context. We therefore need to work together to bring about a more secure world.

Mrs. Sánchez Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

With regard to the draft resolutions presented under the cluster "Other disarmament measures and international security", Cuba wishes to add the following.

Disarmament and environmental protection are closely related. In their implementation of treaties and measures on disarmament and arms control, States must strictly comply with environmental standards.

The Chemical Weapons Convention remains the only international legally binding instrument that includes the verified destruction of a category of weapons of mass destruction and provides for measures to protect individuals and the environment. A similar regime should be established for nuclear and biological weapons.

With regard to disarmament and development, Cuba reiterates its proposal to establish a United Nations-managed fund, to which at least half of the resources currently dedicated to military expenditures would be devoted to respond to the economic and social development requirements of needy countries and to reduce the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

We wish to highlight importance of the draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.63, entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium", to be adopted by the First Committee this year. The data provided by countries affected by radioactive waste as a result of armed conflict demonstrate the severe damage that the use of depleted uranium can cause to human, plant and animal life and the environment in general, and the long-term threat of radioactive contamination as a result of its use. Cuba reiterates its call on States to adopt a precautionary approach to the use of weapons and ammunition with depleted uranium while progress continues to be made in scientific research on its effects.

Multilateralism must be the basic principle of all disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. The multilateral process of United Nations decision-making, in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, is the only effective way of safeguarding peace and international security.

Lastly, we wish to refer to draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.17, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". Cuba supports the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. The covert or illegal use by individuals, organizations and States of the ICT information sytems of other nations to subvert third-patry States must end. The hostile use of ICT to undermine the established legal and political order of States is a violation of internationally recognized standards in that area. Moreover, its effects can raise tensions that are detrimental to peace and international security.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.37.

Ms. Roopnarine (Trinidad and Tobago): I take the floor to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.37, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control".

This text was first introduced in the First Committee in 2010, and since then the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and the resolution's sponsors have invited the First Committee to recognize, in a comprehensive manner, the role of women in decision-making processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Since then as well, the First Committee has adopted resolutions 65/69 of 2010, 67/48 of 2012, 68/33 of 2013 and 69/61 of 2014 on the subject.

The draft text before us builds on its predecessors and highlights specific commitments that States are being requested to undertake, as well as according priority to women's leadership role in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In order to provide some context, we should highlight the fact that the catalyst for the 2010 resolution on women and disarmament was the tenth anniversary, marked that year, of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. In that connection, my delegation considered it fitting this year to include language that reflects the 2015 global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In a spirit of compromise, however, the current draft includes language that alludes to that process. Similarly, there is language referring to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Again, for the sake of compromise, we have included general references to the Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant to the promotion of women in relation to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

As in 2014, a large number of States, including sponsors of the draft resolution and others, articulated the belief that progressive discourse on the issue of women and disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control cannot be separated from the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT is the first legally binding instrument to recognize the link between the arms trade and gender-based violence. The prevailing view is that such a discourse would be deficient without a mention of that connection.

As the main sponsor of the draft text, Trinidad and Tobago is cognizant of all the views expressed by all interested delegations during the informal consultations and bilateral discussions. As far as possible, we have endeavoured to produce a draft text that seeks to accommodate delegations' constructive proposals while retaining particular elements that add substance and meaning to the draft resolution.

Finally, with regard to the importance of this matter to the international community, we are once again, as with previous draft resolutions on the subject, requesting the support of all Member States for today's adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr. Islam (Bangladesh): Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Bangladesh remains an ardent proponent of multilateralism in the pursuit of general and complete disarmament. We continue to emphasize the need for reinvigorating the United Nations disarmament machinery in order to add impetus to intergovernmental negotiations on outstanding disarmament and non-proliferation issues. On principle, we also support avoiding unilateral and plurilateral measures, which often prove counter-productive when it comes to advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Bangladesh underscores the importance of further expanding disarmament education and research and the use of social media tools so as to bring disarmament education and awareness to a wider public, including students at different levels. We acknowledge the useful learning resources developed by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and emphasize the importance of enhancing their interoperability with national education curriculums, online where appropriate. Bangladesh wishes to put on record its appreciation for the continuing useful work being done by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the Institute be provided with the improved, predictable resources it needs to enable it to deliver on its mandates, and thereby help to expand and manage its knowledge base for general consumption by all Member States.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to mainstreaming and preserving relevant environmental norms in the international legal regime on disarmament and arms control. The applicability and relevance of such legal norms to disarmament in areas such as the seabed and in outer space should be subject to further informed research and analysis.

We also remain concerned about the potential misuse of information and communication technology (ICT) to the detriment of international peace and security. Since we see ICT as a key vehicle for

furthering our inclusive economic growth and development, we understand the critical importance of promoting international cooperation in order to ensure information security, including through appropriate transparency and confidence-building measures. We commend the useful work being done by the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established by the Secretary General pursuant to resolution 70/237, and look forward to further concrete recommendations for its mandated areas of work, drawing on the assessments and recommendations made by its predecessors.

The potential threats posed by terrorists using ICT to compromise international security and cause widespread harm underscore the importance of further review of the issue, as well as of strengthening the existing applicable legal regime, as the need arises. We would like to receive further suggestions from the Group of Governmental Experts on the importance of developing a comprehensive legal instrument through intergovernmental negotiations.

In conclusion, we reiterate how important it is to factor potential threats in cyberspace, including new developments in artificial intelligence and other related fields, into the ongoing review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Preventing virtual platforms and related technologies and services enabled by ICT from being used to help terrorists and other unauthorized entities obtain weapons of mass destruction will be a critical challenge for the international community.

Mr. Herráiz España (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): With regard to the information and communication technologies (ICT) security, I would like to highlight a particular area of cybersecurity that has the potential to affect international peace and security, namely, the risks to States of attacks on critical infrastructure based on such technologies. The issue also merits our attention when we consider that the 2015 report (see A/70/174) of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security included a recommendation that States should not conduct or knowingly support activity that damages or otherwise impairs the use of critical infrastructure.

The most relevant dangers in that area are cyberattacks and terrorism, since their aim is do as much

damage as possible. Similarly, the possibility of attacks originating in other States represents a real threat to any country's economy and stability. Cybercrime is also a particular problem for the financial and insurance sectors. Such crimes include identity theft, cyberattacks on financial institutions' technical infrastructure and extortion, while attacks by so-called hacktivists can focus on the media, energy and financial sectors.

But targeted attacks are not the only threat to critical infrastructure, and even attacks that do not specifically target code can still interrupt such infrastructure's operations. Examples would be the problems created by ransom ware, which hijacks a computer and makes it impossible to use it, or crypto-ware, by which the attacker promises to release data once a ransom is paid, something that has affected health institutions.

Governments all over the world are analysing the need to take up Internet legislation, which has a major impact on the security of organizations and the Internet as a whole. States should continue to strengthen their defensive and offensive cybercapacity, improve their ability to obtain information through cyberespionage, and gradually broaden the concept of cyberwar and its rules of engagement. Overt or covert cyberwar among States can have a levelling effect that alters the balance of power in international relations, allowing smaller States to create or purchase cybercapacity to face larger, more powerful countries.

We have confidence in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security for 2016-2017, and the upcoming presentation by the Secretary-General of his report to the Assembly in 2017. We understand that the topic should be a priority focus for States, in accordance with international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes, refraining from threats or the use of force, and respect for human rights and basic freedoms.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.9.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): I have asked for the floor to very briefly introduce draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.9, entitled "Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities". Australia and the Republic of Korea are pleased to introduce this biennial draft

resolution, which is a technical update to resolution 69/62.

Our draft resolution on illicit brokering has its origin in a desire to address illicit transfers of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMD), as illicit brokering activities are, in our view, a problem that cuts across WMDs and conventional weapons alike. It is for that reason that we seek the support of delegations in promoting the draft resolution, thereby contributing to the cause of international peace and security. We welcome co-sponsorship of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.