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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, and those adopted by the Security Council, on the use of chemical weapons,

Recalling also the provisions of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 1/ and of other rules and principles of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict,

Welcoming in this regard the reaffirmation in the Final Declaration of the Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other Interested States, 2/ held in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, of the importance and the continuing validity of the 1925 Protocol,

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

2/ A/44/88, annex.

Recalling the necessity of adherence by all States to the Convention of the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972, 3/

Expressing deep dismay at the existence and use of chemical weapons, at indications of their emergence in an increasing number of national arsenals, and at the risk that they may be used again,

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

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 4/ on the proposals of the group of qualified experts established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 42/37 C of 30 November 1987, concerning technical guidelines and procedures available to the Secretary-General for the timely and efficient investigation of reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons,

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

2. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol;

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

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

5. Welcomes, in this regard, the proposals of the group of qualified experts concerning technical guidelines and procedures to guide the Secretary-General in the conduct of timely and efficient investigation of the reports of use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons;

3/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

4/ A/44/561.

6. Calls upon all States to consider the implementation of these guidelines and procedures for investigation, *inter alia*, by putting at the disposal of the Secretary-General qualified experts and/or consultants as well as laboratories for analysis;

7. Urges all States to be guided in their national policies by the need to curb the spread of chemical weapons, pending the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction;

8. Recognizes the need, upon conclusion of a chemical weapons convention, to review the modalities available to the Secretary-General for the investigation of reports of the possible use of chemical weapons;

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