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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German
Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Poland, Romania,
Sri Lanka and Venezuela: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/77 A of 7 December 1988,

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

Recognizing that such a development will have a negative impact on the security environment, and cause a major setback to disarmament efforts,

Stressing, in this context, the importance of preventing this negative impact by effectively addressing this problem and ensuring that scientific and technological developments are harnessed for the common benefit of mankind,

Recognizing the interests of the international community in the subject and the need to closely follow such developments,

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

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

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General ^{1/} on this item,

1. Takes note of the preliminary work undertaken by the Secretary-General to follow future scientific and technological developments, especially those which have potential military applications, and to evaluate their impact on international security;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to conclude this work so that a report can be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

3. Takes note that the process of establishing national expert panels by Member States has already begun;

4. Encourages Member States to participate by communicating their views to the Secretary-General and invites them to establish panels at the national level to monitor and evaluate developments;

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

^{1/} A/44/487 and Add.1 and 2.