



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/44/787
6 December 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 65SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT
ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITYReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/77 A of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 26th and 41st meetings, from 2 to 17 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26-41).
4. In connection with item 65, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security (A/44/487 and Add.1 and 2);
 - (b) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of

the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2);

(c) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551-S/20870).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.41 and Rev.1 and 2

5. On 30 October, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Poland, Sri Lanka and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" (A/C.1/44/L.41), which was later also sponsored by Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Romania. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the 31st meeting, on 8 November, and read as follows:

"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, thus extending the arms race in new directions,

"Recognizing that such a development will have a negative impact on the security environment, while causing a major setback to disarmament efforts,

"Stressing, in this context, the importance of effectively addressing this problem and ensuring that scientific and technological developments are not exploited for military purposes but 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,

"Having noted that the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization 1/ calls for 'harnessing scientific and technological progress for humanity's benefit rather than for armed confrontations' and that 'it is important to ensure that a qualitative arms race will not follow quantitative disarmament',

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/44/1).

"Having examined the report of the Secretary-General 2/ 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 all Member States to participate by communicating their views to the Secretary-General and establishing panels at the national level to monitor and evaluate developments;

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

6. On 14 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.41/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"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, while causing a major setback to disarmament efforts,

"Stressing, in this context, the importance of effectively addressing this problem and ensuring that scientific and technological developments are not exploited for such military purposes but 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,

2/ A/44/487 and Add.1.

"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 3/ 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'."

7. On 15 November, the sponsors submitted a further revision of the draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.41/Rev.2), which was introduced by the representative of India at the 40th meeting, on 17 November. The draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "while causing a major setback", was revised to read "and cause a major setback";

(b) The fourth preambular paragraph was replaced by the following text:

"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,".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.41/Rev.2 by a recorded vote of 113 to 3, with 15 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba,

Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.46 and Rev.1

9. On 30 October, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic and Mexico submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.46) entitled "Science and technology for disarmament", which was later also sponsored by Czechoslovakia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the German Democratic Republic at the 31st meeting, on 8 November.

10. On 14 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.46/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Noting with concern the dangers resulting from the use of scientific and technological achievements for weapons purposes,"

was revised to read as follows:

"Noting the interest of the international community in the peaceful uses of scientific and technological achievements,";

(b) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "the" was deleted before the word "respective";

(c) A new fifth preambular paragraph was added, which read as follows:

/...

"Taking into account that scientifically and technologically more advanced States bear a special responsibility for disseminating information on and promoting the application of science and technology in the field of disarmament,";

(d) The following words were added at the end of the former fifth preambular paragraph (now sixth preambular paragraph):

"inter alia, in the fields of verification of compliance with agreements on arms limitation and disarmament, application of technologies for improved means of verification as well as conversion of military industry to civilian production,".

11. At its 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.46/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 133 to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 12, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Scientific and technological developments and their impact
on international security

A

Scientific and technological developments and their impact
on international security

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 follow closely 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 ^{4/} on this question,

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;

^{4/} A/44/487 and Add.1 and 2.

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. Notes 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".

B

Science and technology for disarmament

The General Assembly,

Considering that science and technology can profoundly contribute to solving the problems of mankind, especially to promoting its social and economic development,

Noting the interest of the international community in the peaceful uses of scientific and technological achievements,

Recognizing the vast possibilities that scientific and technological progress offers for supporting disarmament negotiations and implementing their results, inter alia, in the fields of verification of compliance with agreements on arms limitation and disarmament as well as conversion of military industry to civilian production,

Welcoming respective activities undertaken so far in this area by States, national and international scientific and technological institutions,

Taking into account that scientifically and technologically more advanced States bear a special responsibility for disseminating information on and promoting the application of science and technology in the field of disarmament,

Considering the need for an intensification and extension of such activities, as well as international co-operation, with a view to using scientific and technological achievements for disarmament related purposes, inter alia, in the fields of verification of compliance with agreements on arms limitation and disarmament, application of technologies for improved means of verification and conversion of military industry to civilian production,

1. Takes note of national and international activities to use scientific and technological achievements for disarmament related purposes;
 2. Calls upon Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify and extend such activities, to develop international co-operation in this area and to keep the United Nations informed about progress in this field;
 3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session an item entitled "Science and technology for disarmament".
-