



General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

First Committee

19th meeting

Tuesday, 28 October 2014, 3 pm.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Rattray (Jamaica)

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Alsaad (Saudi Arabia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda items 87 to 104 (continued)

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

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): We will begin by taking up the list of speakers under cluster 5, "Other disarmament measures and international security". At approximately 4.30 p.m., in accordance with the programme of work and timetable and in keeping with the established practice of the Committee, we will hear from 15 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

All speakers are reminded to kindly observe the time limits of five minutes for those speaking in a national capacity and seven minutes for statements on behalf of several delegations. Speakers with relatively long statements are urged to deliver a concise summary of their texts and to submit the full statement in written form for posting on the First Committee web portal, QuickFirst.

I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/69/L.39, A/C.1/69/L.41, A/C.1/69/L.42 and A/C.1/69/L.43.

Mr. Isnomo (Indonesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

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

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

The Movement emphasizes that those technologies and means should be utilized by Member States in a manner consistent with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, NAM calls for the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict, and ensuring instead exclusively peaceful uses, which would enable the full realization of the potential of information and communications technology (ICT) to contribute to social and economic development. The Movement further highlights the central role of Governments in areas related to public policy aspects of ICT security.

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Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, NAM reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Against that background, the Movement once again introduces draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.39, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”.

The Movement emphasizes the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements. In that context, this year the Movement introduces the updated resolution A/C.1/69/L.41, entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”.

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 such norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

NAM welcomes the adoption without a vote of resolution 68/37, entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development”, and this year introduces draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.42, of the same title.

In that context, the Movement expresses concern at the worldwide increase in military expenditure, funds that could otherwise be spent on development needs. The Movement further stresses the importance of reducing military expenditures in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and urges all States to devote resources made available thereby to economic and social development, in particular the fight against poverty.

NAM expresses firm support for unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures aimed at reducing military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security, and recognizes that confidence-building measures assisted in that regard.

Taking into consideration the possible harmful effects to human health and the environmental damage caused by the use of weapons and munitions containing depleted uranium, the Movement introduces draft

resolution A/C.1/69/L.43, entitled “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium”.

Finally, the Movement seeks the support of all Member States and calls on them to vote in favour of the draft resolutions to which I have referred.

Mr. Elshandawily (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt makes this statement on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States. The League aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Indonesia on this cluster on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

International security issues relating to developments in the field of information and communications technology (ICT) are gaining increasing importance. In view of the observations made by the Group of Governmental Experts established by the General Assembly, the Arab Group wishes to raise the following points.

First, in using information and communications technology in general, Member States must abide by their commitments to settle disputes in a peaceful manner, in consonance with Article II, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, in addition to the restriction of the use of force or the threat of use of force, in consonance with Article II, paragraph 4, of the Charter.

In the area of information and communications technology security, the main issue under consideration by the Group of Governmental Experts – the use or threat of use of force – also includes destruction of or any damage inflicted in any way on the infrastructure layers of ICT, whether physical or digital, in any Member State.

There are three interrelated layers to ICT: first, its physical infrastructure; secondly, the application of the relevant technology; and thirdly, its content and applications related to content. In that regard, we must increase our efforts to develop and implement confidence-building measures aimed at reducing tensions concerning the field of technology and to fill gaps in countries’ ICT capacities, especially considering the rapid increase in Member States’ interconnectedness through communications and information networks. That adds to the challenges that developing nations are facing and makes them more vulnerable to adverse uses of such technology.

That in turn requires that we ensure that such capacity-building is commensurate with the emerging challenges and includes the transfer of knowledge and technology on preferential terms, and that such activities become an integral part of any multilateral initiatives on ICT security. The Arab Group would like to emphasize the importance of increasing countries' capacity to deal with any incidents in that regard, such as the ability to trace the source of threats to ICT networks, as well as with such aspects as those related to responsibility, including the responsibility of the State. That requires the participation of all Member States, including developing nations, and ensuring that they are able to participate as fully as possible in all arrangements concerning the governance and management of the basic infrastructure that is critical to the Internet. We should acknowledge the importance of Governments' contributions in fields related to general ICT security policy. The Arab Group stands ready to contribute to deliberations within the unique international and multilateral forum of the United Nations in order to reach consensus on ICT security.

In addition to the points that we have raised as priorities for the security of ICT and its infrastructure, there are several other issues that should be dealt with. That is why the Arab Group would like to bring up a recommendation contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/68/98), which urges regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations. Such efforts within the United Nations should be based on consensus, as cited in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunisia and Geneva in 2003 and 2005, respectively. The Arab Group believes that those efforts should focus on the protection of cyberspace in order to ensure that it does not become an arena for arms races or conflicts. It should be limited to strictly peaceful uses, thereby enabling Member States to derive full benefit from ICT's ability to contribute to their social and economic development.

Miss Richards (Jamaica): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Our remarks will focus on the issue of women and disarmament.

We are indeed pleased that the First Committee will once again address the issue. We particularly welcome the growing attention, both within and outside

the Committee, to the gender aspects of disarmament. We also welcome the Secretary-General's report on Member States' implementation of resolution 68/33, on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/69/114). In so doing, we take special note of the actions being undertaken at local, subnational, national and regional levels, as well as within the United Nations system, to promote, support and strengthen women's effective participation in all decision-making processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, particularly as that relates to the prevention and the reduction of armed violence and armed conflict. The work being done at the level of civil society is also noteworthy and much appreciated.

Numerous reports attest to the fact that women and girls disproportionately suffer serious human rights violations, particularly sexual violence, during armed conflict and war. That situation was clearly addressed in Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), which highlights the fact that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflicts and have a wide range of negative human rights, humanitarian, development and socioeconomic consequences, especially on the security of civilians in armed conflict and including the disproportionate impact of violence perpetrated against women and girls.

While we in the CARICOM region are not affected by armed conflict, in many of our countries we face insurmountable challenges related to armed violence. According to statistics, approximately 70 per cent of homicides within the region involve the use of a firearm. While men are most often the victims of gun crimes, it is women who are often left to become the sole breadwinners for their families and who risk falling into poverty. They also have to deal with the resulting emotional and mental trauma that follows such crimes.

It is therefore worth repeating that CARICOM States support the view that decisions on disarmament must consider its effects on both men and women, and that we cannot adopt draft resolutions and establish agreements that affect the entire international community and not take into account one half of the world's population. Our support for the issue is fully embodied in the annual draft resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control piloted by our fellow CARICOM member State Trinidad and Tobago. This year's draft resolution will be introduced by Trinidad and Tobago's delegation later in the

debate. We are pleased that this year's text of the draft resolution, as contained in document A/C.1/69/L.47, has been updated to reflect significant developments, including provisions on gender-based violence and the Arms Trade Treaty, which obliges States parties to take into account the risk of conventional weapons being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence against women and children. That is a huge step forward. Against a backdrop of high levels of conflict and armed violence worldwide, we cannot overemphasize the importance of implementing such criteria on the ground.

It is particularly timely and noteworthy that one of the key findings in June of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was the need to facilitate women's participation and representation in the policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to small arms and light weapons. Equally important are the comprehensive measures that States agreed to undertake in addressing that shortcoming in future, including through women's access to training, as well as awareness-raising and education. That positive development builds on the 2012 Review Conference of the Programme of Action, which underscored the need for further integrating women into efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Another key update in draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47 is a recognition of the need to strengthen the collection of data and evidence to better understand the impacts of armed violence, and in particular of small arms and light weapons, on women and girls. We believe that such information will assist the international community at all levels better to address the challenges associated with the proliferation and use of weapons in situations of armed violence.

Almost 15 years ago, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, which was unanimously adopted, brought to light a previously unappreciated reality: the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. Recognized as a historic and unprecedented document, the impetus for its adoption was strong. Indeed, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the successor resolutions have established a broad spectrum of norms on women

and peace and security. We are pleased that in 2010 the General Assembly, through the First Committee, began to consider the specific implications of resolution 1325 (2000) for disarmament, with the adoption of resolution 65/69, entitled "Women, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation".

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. Draft resolution A/C.1/69.L.47 provides an opportunity to solidify our consideration of this issue as a core and cross-cutting agenda item. We therefore look forward to its adoption by consensus, as in previous years.

While we welcome the growing representation of women in the First Committee over the past few years — and I am proud to be represented among our number — CARICOM perceives the need for far greater progress to be made in achieving gender balance through increased representation of women in this critically important aspect of the Organization's work.

Mrs. Sweeb (Suriname): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). As UNASUR countries, we wish to express our views regarding the agenda item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

Information and communications technologies should be a tool for the promotion of inclusion and development and should not be used by State or non-State actors in violation of international or human rights law, any principle of peaceful relations among sovereign nations, or the privacy of citizens. The latest UNASUR Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Paramaribo on 30 August 2013, strongly rejected espionage actions and the interception of telecommunications, which constitute a threat to security and serious violations of human, civil and political rights, of international law and of national sovereignty, and which damage relations among nations.

In order to address this issue in South America, UNASUR Heads of State and Government decided to accelerate the development of projects for cyberdefence and the safer interconnection of fibre-optic networks in our countries. Their aim is to make our

telecommunications more secure, strengthen the development of regional technologies and promote digital inclusion.

Aware of the development of offensive capacities in cyberspace as part of military doctrines, UNASUR member States share a growing concern regarding the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and possible conflict escalations prompted by cyberattacks. In that regard, we favour the strengthening of international norms and principles applicable to States in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, while preserving the right to privacy and the free flow of information.

We welcome the start of discussions within the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established by resolution 68/243, which includes experts from two UNASUR countries. We look forward with great interest to the report to be presented by the Group at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, which could contribute, *inter alia*, to the consideration of important confidence-building measures in this field.

We welcome the conclusion of the previous report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/68/98) — which included an expert from one UNASUR member State — that international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting open, secure, peaceful and accessible information and communications technologies.

We are therefore ready to engage in a constructive debate, while highlighting the importance of respect for the sovereignty of nations, the right to privacy, the inviolability of official communications and the need to safeguard the peaceful nature of cyberspace.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/69/L.13.

Mr. Nath (India): India associates itself with the statement delivered earlier in this thematic debate by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

India has the honour to introduce draft decision A/C.1/69/L.13, 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 of the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

Progress in science and technology is a critical factor for economic and social development. Developing countries are especially dependent upon access to scientific developments and new technologies for developmental purposes and for active participation in global trade. We therefore believe that international cooperation on the peaceful uses of science and technology should be promoted through all the relevant means, including technology transfer, the sharing of information and exchange of equipment and materials.

It is widely recognized that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications, including as weapons of mass destruction, as well as inventing entirely new weapon systems. The military applications of scientific and technological developments can impact on upgrading of weapons systems and increasing their lethality. For instance, the international community has expressed concerns about the misuse of information and communications technologies for criminal or hostile purposes, as well as about the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems. We believe that there is a need to closely follow scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment 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, keeping in mind the legitimate defence requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls of appropriate standards in this field should be strengthened and effectively implemented. The relevant international agreements in this field should be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States parties to those agreements.

For all those reasons, 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. There is therefore a need for dialogue among Member States to find a viable, forward-looking approach that takes into account current trends and possible future directions. We therefore hope that, as in the past years, the First

Committee will endorse draft decision A/C.1/69/L.13, as introduced by India.

Mr. Sano (Japan): Japan firmly believes that promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education underpins all efforts for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons underscored education as a useful and effective means for that purpose, and it encouraged all States parties to implement the 34 recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/158). In that regard, recommendation 31 of the report requests that Member States inform the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) of any steps they take to implement the recommendations. Unfortunately, only nine countries, including Japan, have submitted the relevant information. That regrettable result should be improved; we need to nurture a culture of reporting among ourselves. We encourage all Member States to put the Secretary-General's recommendations into practice and report to UNODA. This year Mexico will introduce the biennial draft resolution on the United Nations study, which will reaffirm the importance of implementing the Secretary-General's 34 recommendations. As one of the draft resolution's sponsors, Japan hopes it will again be adopted by consensus.

If we are to overcome the challenges to disarmament and non-proliferation, the role of civil society and the younger generation is essential. The 2012 Nagasaki Declaration, one of the outcomes of the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, hosted by the Government of Japan, stressed that education should be carried out in an inclusive and collaborative way by various stakeholders through interactive engagement. On the margins of the First Committee, as well as of previous preparatory committees for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences, many non-governmental organizations and Governments, including Japan, organized a variety of side events aimed at increasing awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation. The increase in the number and quality of side events each year not only focuses attention on the important issues we face but provides useful feedback for us all.

Based on our distinctive historical background, we believe we have a special mission to convey an understanding of what actually happened in August 1945 to people around the world, particularly future

generations. After its launch in 2010 of a group of special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons, in 2013 Japan inaugurated a new programme of youth communicators for a world without nuclear weapons. So far we have appointed and dispatched 58 youth communicators all over the world. Under the programme, younger generations are expected to share what they have learned about the tragic consequences of atomic bombs and their thoughts on possible ways to achieve their elimination.

In addition, every year since 1983, Japan has contributed to the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, inviting young diplomats and Government officials to Japan. To date, 811 fellows from around the world have visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and this year 25 more witnessed at first hand the realities of the devastation wrought by atom bombs. We believe it was an eye-opening experience for them, and hope that those who have visited the two cities will work to achieve nuclear disarmament in their Governments or organizations.

In 1983, Japan installed a permanent exhibition about the atomic bombings at the United Nations in New York and, more recently, in 2011 we did the same in Geneva. We believe the exhibitions have contributed considerably to greater public awareness of the consequences of nuclear weapons as well as of what is currently being done to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. At the Committee's session last year, I pointed out that few people had noticed the presence of the New York exhibition since its relocation owing to the reconstruction going on in the building. We now understand that the reconstruction will end next month and look forward to seeing the exhibition given appropriate space and the opportunity to further improve the quality of the display.

Our journey towards a secure world free of nuclear weapons requires enduring will and enormous energy on everyone's part, on a global scale. It is therefore all the more crucial to foster a broad and deep understanding of the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in people's minds and hearts. Believing as it does in the potential of education, Japan intends to continue to take the lead in this area and calls on all Member States to join it.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.45.

Mr. Buck (United States of America): I have asked for the floor today to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.45, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 96, entitled “Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments”. The full version of my statement will be posted to the QuickFirst website. We believe this draft resolution can make a useful contribution to broadening and deepening the international consensus that compliance is a vital element of peace and security. We are pleased to note that draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.45 currently enjoys the sponsorship of 73 Member States and remains open for more.

The priority of advancing compliance is shared by all the draft resolution’s sponsors. In remarks of particular note from the perspective of the United States, President Obama, in Prague in April 2009, called on all States to comply with their obligations and to hold other States accountable for their actions. Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.45 reinforces the broad consensus that compliance with multilateral and international treaties, agreements and other obligations and commitments undertaken by United Nations Member States in order to prevent the further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and to regulate and reduce armaments, is a central element of the international security architecture and a requirement for continued progress towards disarmament.

This year’s draft resolution updates and only slightly revises the text of resolution 66/49, of 2011. Like its predecessors, it acknowledges the widespread recognition within the international community of the impact of non-compliance challenges on international peace and stability. Its adoption would be another concrete example of the international community’s determination to use diplomacy to advance compliance.

With regard to some relatively minor substantive edits to this year’s text, we would like to emphasize that the draft resolution is focused on holding States accountable for failing to comply with the existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments they have freely undertaken. Without confidence and compliance, the authority and benefits of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments are undermined, making the world a more dangerous place.

The United States has no illusions that advancing compliance will be easy. We know that often there are no easy answers to the non-compliance issues we

face. However, we also know that advancing that cause together is the only way we can succeed. Supporting what should be the universally accepted principle of compliance with treaties, agreements, obligations, and commitments freely undertaken is something we should all be able to endorse. In that spirit, we would welcome as many more sponsors as possible in hopes that this year we can once again return to consensus adoption of this important draft resolution.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/69/L.52 and A/C.1/69/L.53.

Mrs. García Guiza (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): For Mexico, education about and the promotion of the values, actions and goals of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vital to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as for building a culture of peace and a safer world. In that context, my delegation is pleased to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.53, on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124). The draft resolution includes technical updates and a paragraph that requests the Secretary-General to maintain the “Disarmament education: resources for learning” website and the “Disarmament today” series of podcasts. Such a request would have no financial implications.

In its resolution 55/33 E, of November 2000, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, prepare a study on education and training on disarmament and non-proliferation. In March 2001 the Group of Governmental Experts was established, with members from Egypt, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Senegal and Sweden, and prepared a study of the subject. Since then, States must respond to the recommendations of the study and report on various items and the actions we have taken to promote peace and disarmament. We reiterate the call for all countries to implement the recommendations of the study and submit their reports to the Organization. In that regard, we call on the Committee to support the draft resolution on this issue.

Last July, Mexico, in coordination with the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Diplomatic Academy of Mexico/Instituto Matías Romero, hosted the first session of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The

course, aimed at Latin American diplomats without prior experience in disarmament, aimed to provide a forum for analysis, reflection and discussion on the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through a survey training on concepts, technologies and basic policies related to nuclear weapons, multilateral disarmament processes that led to treaties on nuclear weapons, and new developments and perspectives. The course included the participation of 32 diplomats from the region and Mexican officials, in addition to the presence of international experts involved in the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation from academic and Governmental spheres and civil society.

Mexico believes that multisectoral cooperation is crucial for advancing disarmament goals. With this initiative we wish to support Latin American and Caribbean Governments to contribute to the training of new experts in nuclear disarmament. This course will be conducted each year. We hope that other countries will be interested in participating and send experts or speakers, or act as sponsors of this effort. Most important, the course should inspire the creation of similar courses, so that further generations of diplomats become champions of disarmament.

Mexico is introducing draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.52, on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, in recognition of the importance of the Programme as a valuable source of information, which can provide inputs to all Member States during its deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various organs of the United Nations, as well as assist in implementing various international instruments in this field, contributing to the transparency mechanisms and helping to disseminate information on disarmament to the general public. My delegation hopes to receive the support of all delegations to this project as a sign of support for the United Nations in its task of dissemination and education.

Mrs. Del Sol Dominguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, my delegation supports the statement made earlier by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The draft resolutions submitted to the First Committee under the cluster “Other disarmament measures and international security” address issues of great importance. Let me single out four of them that are particularly important to my delegation. Their titles are “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions

containing depleted uranium” (A/C.1/69/L.43), “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control” (A/C.1/69/L.41), “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation” (A/C.1/69/L.39), and “Relationship between disarmament and development” (A/C.1/69/L.42).

Cuba reaffirms its strong support for the draft resolution entitled “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium”. The draft resolution, introduced on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement, addresses an issue that is the subject of legitimate concern for the international community. Numerous countries and organizations have expressed their concerns about the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium. Preliminary studies carried out by international organizations make clear that significant scientific uncertainties about the long-term environmental effects of depleted uranium, particularly with respect to long-term contamination of groundwater, persist. It is therefore necessary to adopt a precautionary approach to the use of depleted uranium, and we need further research to determine their long-term effects on health and the environment.

Likewise, assistance should be provided to affected States, particularly in identifying and managing contaminated sites and material. Moreover, it is vital to observe environmental standards when negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, which must be strictly complied with by all States.

Cuba has accumulated vast experience in the adoption and implementation of laws and policies that allow observing environmental standards in all processes of social life, including its application in various international instruments on disarmament and arms control to which our country is a State party.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and their continuous upgrading, is the most serious threat to international peace and security, the fragile ecological balance of our planet and sustainable development for all. To date, the Chemical Weapons Convention remains the only international agreement that provides for the verifiable destruction of nuclear weapons and the facilities that produce them, as well as measures to protect people and the environment. In that regard, the principles and methods for the destruction of chemical weapons are of

great importance, and States possessing such weapons and those participating in the work of destroying them should take them into account when undertaking their destruction.

The strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention through the adoption of a verification protocol will be fundamental to the protection of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity on our planet. It is urgent that negotiations commence on a convention that totally eliminates nuclear weapons within a specific period of time and under strict international control. An international convention on nuclear disarmament must necessarily include measures for environmental protection.

With regard to the draft resolution entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”, Cuba reiterates the importance of achieving negotiated solutions in the multilateral sphere and the need to reach collective agreements as the only way to ensure international peace and security. Practice has shown that the goal of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will not be reached by applying unilateral measures or through the use or threat of use of force. Multilateralism and a peaceful negotiated solution under the Charter of the United Nations are the only suitable means for dispute resolution and progress towards general and complete disarmament. The stalled negotiations in the framework of the multilateral disarmament machinery experienced in recent years due to lack of political will by some States reaffirm the importance of multilateralism.

Disarmament and development are two of the major challenges facing humankind, especially given the global nature of the profound economic, social, food, energy and environmental crises affecting us. Alarming, some \$1.75 trillion is dedicated to military expenditure, which could be invested to combat extreme poverty or help fight diseases such as Ebola. Cuba reiterates its proposal to create a fund managed by the United Nations to which at least half of current military expenditures would go in order to meet the needs of economic and social development of needy countries.

Likewise, we reiterate our support for the Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in 1987, which includes an international commitment to allocate a part of the resources freed up by disarmament to socioeconomic development. For those reasons,

Cuba co-sponsored and supported the draft resolution entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development”, as introduced on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ms. Xiao Yue (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The fast pace of progress in information and communication technology (ICT) has had a profound impact on all aspects of the social and economic life of humankind. While ICT has brought about new opportunities for the advancement of human civilization, it has also brought unprecedented challenges. Cybercrime and cyberterrorism have been on the rise. Cyberattacks and the militarization of cyberspace threaten to diminish international security and mutual trust, and the imbalanced development of the Internet needs to be addressed without delay.

Cybersecurity is not only of paramount importance to a country’s economy and the welfare of its people but also profoundly affects the security and prosperity of the international community as a whole. We should therefore make joint efforts to build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace. To that end, China believes that we need to adhere to the following principles.

First is the principle of peace. Countries should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized basic norms governing international relations, and discard the zero-sum mentality and Cold War ideology. We should pursue our own security through common security on the basis of full respect for other countries’ security and prevent the militarization of and an arms race in cyberspace.

Second is the principle of sovereignty. Countries should respect each other, and no country should use the Internet to interfere in other countries’ internal affairs or undermine their interests. States have jurisdiction over the ICT infrastructure and activities within their territories. National Governments are entitled to make public policy regarding the Internet based on their national conditions.

The third principle is co-governance. The international community should work together to manage and equitably distribute the critical resources of the Internet with a view to building a multilateral, democratic and transparent global Internet governance system. In this process, universal participation and joint decision-making should be guaranteed, so that the

Internet will be a place of open resources and shared responsibilities, governed through cooperation.

Fourth is the the principle of universal benefit. We need to uphold the concept of mutual benefit and win-win and enable everyone to benefit from the opportunities brought by the Internet's development and to share in its achievements. We need to encourage bilateral, regional and international cooperation in efforts to promote universal access to the Internet. In particular, we should increase assistance to developing countries so as to bridge the digital divide.

China is of the view that the United Nations should play a leading role in establishing order in cyberspace. The United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Information Security provides an important platform for countries to enhance mutual understanding and explore the establishment of international norms and rules. China supports and has actively participated in the work of all previous sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts in this regard. A new Group of Governmental Experts on Information Security was convened in July, which China believes should focus on examining how to translate the principle of peace into a code of conduct regulating the behaviour of parties, further fulfilling and enriching the meaning of cybersovereignty, exploring the norms of behaviour and measures against cyberterrorism, and promoting equitable global governance of the Internet.

China attaches great importance to cybersecurity and is committed to further enhancing our cybersecurity level. In February, China established the Central Leading Group on Cybersecurity and Informatization, making possible unified leadership and effective enforcement in the field of cybersecurity.

China has been dedicated to building and maintaining the order of cyberspace. We support and have actively participated in the international discussion on cybersecurity. In 2011, China, together with Russia and other countries, submitted to the General Assembly a draft international code of conduct on information security. We are ready to work with others to improve it. Last June, China and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific co-hosted an international workshop on information and cybersecurity, providing a useful platform for in-depth discussion in this regard. We are ready to work with the rest of the international community to contribute further to building a more secure and prosperous cyberspace.

Mr. Sahebzada Ahmed Khan (Pakistan): Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The fast pace of technological innovations is changing the way international law can and should govern their development, deployment and use. The way some of the new and emerging technologies are used has an impact on and implications for international peace and security. While the international community is justifiably focused on the impact of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, on international security, the rapid development of new weapons technologies in the conventional weapons domain also pose serious threats to international peace and security. Such threats are even more urgent and real because these new weapons reduce or eliminate the danger of human casualties for the user States and therefore increase the likelihood of their use. The net result is a lowering of the threshold for resorting to armed conflict.

This reality is underscored by the increasing and indiscriminate use of new weapons such as armed drones. In our view, the use of armed drones, especially against civilians, constitutes a violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and international humanitarian as well as human rights laws. Their use also contravenes State sovereignty and the Charter restrictions on the legitimate use of force for self-defence, in the absence of imminent danger and without express permission from States on whose territory the armed drones are used. The established principles of distinction, proportionality, transparency and accountability are also violated.

The Human Rights Council, jurists and human rights groups have all opposed armed drones targeting civilians through signature strikes, and have termed their use as tantamount to extrajudicial killings since no due process of law is followed. Moreover, the proliferation of drone technology over time would make their use more dangerous and widespread. Even more challenging would be the task of preventing and deterring non-State actors and terrorists from developing, deploying and using drones against people or even States. When such technology spreads, its use could lead to miscalculations and even the eruption of inter-State conflicts.

Another destabilizing development is the advent of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS). The autonomous or independent selection of targets and

use of lethal force by machines poses serious legal and moral questions and has implications for the laws of war. In the absence of any human intervention, LAWS may in fact change the nature of war. The use of LAWS also raises serious concerns about the targeting of civilians and non-combatants. It may also flow into the signature targeting domain. There is no clarity on affixation of responsibility and no human control in the judgement on the use of such weapons. In the light of these factors, the use of LAWS violates international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. As in the case of armed drones, the important issues of transparency and accountability also need to be addressed.

Similarly, the growing prospect of cyberwarfare needs to be addressed urgently before such weapons break down the entire edifice of international security. In recent years, information and communications technologies (ICTs) have been used not only for indiscriminate surveillance — in violation of the international legal regime, including the rights to privacy and to freedom of expression and information — but also as a means of waging cyberattacks. Since no one can have a monopoly over such technology, its proliferation will ensure a new form of conflict through cyberspace. The misuse or unregulated use of ICTs could lead to serious implications for international peace and security in the event of a cyberattack on critical infrastructure, such as electricity grids, disruption of satellites, weather forecasting and even the security infrastructure of States. In that context, the hostile use of cybertechnologies can indeed be characterized as a new weapon of mass destruction and disruption.

Finally, in view of such dangerous technological developments, it is essential that their production and use be regulated sooner rather than later. Evolved legal norms and laws are urgently needed for international control of the development, production, deployment and use of weapons such as armed drones, LAWS and cyber weapons.

Mr. Van der Kwast (Netherlands): The increase in Internet use over the past two decades has been astounding. Where there were only 1 million users in 1992, there are almost 3 billion today. Cyberspace unlocks enormous potential gains in wealth and welfare in an ever more connected society, and Bill Gates has emphasized that the Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow.

In order to continue to benefit from the Internet as a driver of development and innovation, we must ensure that we develop safer ways to do business online. We need to protect people from threats to the exercise of their online freedoms and from crime-related activities, and we must promote international stability and security in the cyberdomain. The cyberdomain can be used by both States and non-State actors to threaten international security. For example, digital attacks on a nation's critical infrastructure, such as its power-supply network, airports and seaports, are a realistic threat these days. Cybersecurity and the promotion of international peace and stability in the cyberdomain are therefore essential themes. In an effort to reduce the risks posed by insufficient cybersecurity, many ongoing bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives are contributing to increased transparency, confidence and stability in the cyberdomain. Such confidence-building measures are extremely important and should be further enhanced.

The Netherlands is of the opinion that an issue such as cybersecurity cannot be addressed in isolation but should be considered in conjunction with such subjects as freedom and the potential for economic growth online. Only by working together globally and in a multi-stakeholder setting can we guarantee that the most crucial piece of twenty-first-century societal infrastructure will remain secure, free and open.

It is for that reason that on 16 and 17 April in The Hague, the Netherlands will host the Global Conference on Cyberspace 2015 as a follow-up to the conferences on cyberspace held previously in London, Budapest and Seoul. The Conference will bring together all the relevant stakeholders from various backgrounds — Government, the private sector and civil society — to discuss these challenges in a comprehensive manner. Its objective is to guarantee that the Internet will remain free, open and secure. The conference is intended to be a platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas on strategic cyberspace issues and discussing specific conflicts between security, freedom and economic growth online. The Netherlands introduced the Global Conference during a side event on 21 October here in New York. An interactive discussion on several cyber dilemmas — including those that affect international peace and security — took place and provided valuable insight into the most pressing issues to be included on the Conference's agenda.

I would like to conclude by stating once again the firm commitment of the Netherlands to work with the

rest of the world to unlock the enormous potential gains in wealth and welfare and to keep cyberspace, our town square of the global village of tomorrow, secure, free and open.

Mr. Quinn (Australia): Australia welcomes a measured discussion in the Committee about the international security implications of the fast-moving developments in cyberspace. It is appropriate that the United Nations should take the lead in considering this particular subject.

As has been said, the Internet now constitutes a critical piece of the global infrastructure on which the broad international community — Government, businesses, civil society and individuals — all depend. It has empowered hundreds of millions of people around the globe to access all manner of opportunities. It also poses some novel and complex challenges with which Governments, businesses and civil society are all grappling. That was well illustrated by the groundbreaking NETmundial Conference in São Paulo earlier this year.

There is now growing international attention to developing clearer rules of the road on what is acceptable behaviour in cyberspace. Given the complexities involved, forging broad international agreement on such rules will necessarily be a longer-term endeavour. But we have taken an important first step in the process, securing broad agreement that existing international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to States' conduct in cyberspace. That was the key conclusion of the consensus report (A/68/98), adopted in June 2013, of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, which Australia had the honour to chair, and a conclusion that merits active reinforcement and promotion.

The next logical step is to give further consideration to how international law applies in cyber space. Australia remains fully committed to contributing to that work, on which a new Group of Governmental Experts is now embarked. The discussion should go beyond focusing on armed conflict, also addressing the question of State actions that fall below the threshold of armed conflict and in peacetime. There are now a myriad of actors and transactions in cyberspace where developments unfold rapidly. The risks of friction, unintended consequences and potentially serious conflict between States are

thus very high, as are the stakes for the international community in avoiding such scenarios.

We have long experience with transparency and confidence-building measures in the field of international security. Such measures are a well-established way to address risks of misperception, misunderstanding and miscalculation, thus lowering the risks of escalation that could lead to conflict. The 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts specifically endorses the value of that stream of work, which is also being pursued in other contexts, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. As a matter of urgency, specific transparency and confidence-building measures now need to be identified, formulated and agreed on between States. They also need to be put into practice and exercised. In that regard, Australia was pleased to co-chair with Malaysia a workshop on cyber-confidence-building measures in Kuala Lumpur in March this year under the auspices of the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The centrepiece of the event was a very successful discussion exercise on how to de-escalate a major cyberincident in the financial sector, raising national, regional and international security considerations.

A key lesson from the workshop was the value of stronger regional and global networks of policy, technical, operational and other points of contact, including those at reasonably senior levels. Such networks should enable swift clarification to be sought from the country that appears to be the source of the cyberincident — preferably not in a judgemental or accusatory fashion. There is also scope for developing clearer protocols between States, including in relation to what information can be sought through relevant channels. Developing and elaborating transparency and confidence-building measures in the cyberdomain will thus have a direct and positive impact on regional and international security. Australia remains committed to working with the ASEAN Regional Forum and other partners to advance this important agenda, recognizing the particular mandate of such regional security bodies to build confidence and prevent conflict, and the value of sharing experiences between regions.

The 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts also reaffirms the importance of capacity-building. This subject is now an integral element of international cooperation on cyberspace. Australia is actively engaged in this field, especially in our region.

We support innovative approaches to capacity-building, which reflect the fundamental multi-stakeholder dynamics of cyberspace, are based on sound assessments of needs and sustainability and draw on international best practices.

In closing, we wish to acknowledge the important contribution made by the three international conferences held to date under the London process umbrella in advancing international cooperation in cyberspace in all its dimensions, including international security. We look forward to participating in the next such event — the global conference on cyberspace 2015 to be hosted by the Netherlands in April 2015 — which will again bring together Governments, the business community and civil society in productive dialogue.

Ms. Lau Herng Hui (Singapore): Like other representatives before me, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, and your Bureau on your appointments. My delegation has enjoyed working constructively with you thus far.

We face slow progress in the disarmament agenda. The close link between disarmament and security means that First Committee discussions are often sensitive and contentious. Nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States continue to disagree over the relative emphases on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. It is, however, encouraging to see the strong political commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty process, and in this regard, the rapid pace at which it has progressed, despite its text being adopted only recently, in April 2013 (resolution 67/234 B).

As many have highlighted, 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, an event significant to the disarmament agenda. Surprisingly, the fact that 2014 also marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War has featured a lot less prominently in our statements. As Mark Twain once said, “History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme”. Earlier this year, the internationally respected historian Professor Margaret MacMillan pointed out the unsettling similarities between the worlds in 1914 and 2014. What stood out was the toxic nationalism that drew and continues to draw in external Powers to protect both their interests and, to a lesser extent, their clients. The interconnectedness of the world in 1914 did not stop the outbreak of the First World War.

It is this same interconnectedness today that heightens the gravity of the situation. Global security will inevitably have an impact on the international economy. Effective and expeditious multilateral action must be taken to stop the stagnation of the disarmament conversation. States should use this interconnectedness to facilitate communication and promote understanding. This will in turn contribute to the building of strategic trust, and make it easier to achieve a compromise on many multilateral issues in the disarmament agenda.

Singapore is firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons process, and will continue to support all efforts towards nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We also urge the remaining countries in annex 2 to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Singapore supports international initiatives that address the humanitarian concerns associated with the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and the conventional weapons governed under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. We remain fully committed to working with the United Nations and members of the international community to ensure that these weapons are not misused.

Outside the United Nations, Singapore is also an active participant in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Singapore has previously hosted two PSI maritime interdiction exercises, Exercise Deep Sabre I and II, in 2005 and 2009, respectively. We are also part of the six-country Asia-Pacific exercise rotation initiative. Singapore is pleased to announce that we will host our third maritime interdiction exercise in 2016 under this initiative — Exercise Deep Sabre III. We are also a member of the PSI Operational Experts Group, and we actively participate in the annual meetings of the Group.

Despite our existing contributions, the international community needs to continually question ourselves — what is the next step, and how do we get there? We need to make a conscientious effort to keep the disarmament conversation going. Existing multilateral regimes must actually be implemented. With the progressively transnational nature of threats to security, it is even more imperative today to look beyond national

boundaries and towards common interests. These are ideas that I urge States to seriously consider over the course of the next year, before we meet again at the First Committee debates of the seventieth session of the General Assembly. With combined effort, we should and can achieve progress in the disarmament agenda.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.26.

Mr. Yermakov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has brought substantial changes to the agenda of international security. The cases of the use of information and communication technologies for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace, security and stability have increased. The information space is being increasingly used to undermine national sovereignty and interference in the internal affairs of States. The prevention of political and military confrontation in the field of the use of ICTs is therefore particularly urgent.

One response to the challenges and threats to international information security should be the strengthening of international cooperation. The United Nations, as the most representative global Organization responsible for maintaining international peace and stability, should continue to play a leading role in the discussions of international information security issues.

Last year, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security concluded its work. We consider the adoption by consensus of its final report (A/68/98) an indication of its clear success. The report focused on the need to prevent conflicts in information space rather than on their legitimization. Intense debates in the Group of Governmental Experts and its consensus outcome have once again proved that, even if there are some differences in approaches among the parties, it is still possible to reach mutually acceptable compromises.

This year, the new Group of Governmental Experts has started its work in accordance with resolution 68/243, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”, developed by the Russian Federation. We note with regret that not all the experts who made a significant contribution to the work of the

previous Group of Governmental Experts have been able to continue their work in the new Group.

The new Group of Governmental Experts has two fundamental differences from the previous one. First, its membership has increased from 15 to 20 experts, who represent various countries and regions. That creates conditions for a wider exchange of views. Secondly, the Group will hold four instead of three meetings. That will provide for a more detailed consideration of specific aspects of international information security within the United Nations. The mandate of the new Group of Governmental Experts has been expanded to discuss such issues as the use of ICTs in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of ICTs by States. We expect that the new Group will be able to develop a common understanding on these matters, elaborate practical recommendations and set out further steps in this important direction.

The Russian Federation is introducing draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.26, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. It is based on the annual resolution that has been discussed by the First Committee since 1998 and adopted by consensus for several years now. We have already received a sufficient number of suggestions regarding the text of the document. In working on the draft, we took into consideration all comments. However, our aim was to preserve a balanced text rather than to promote the position of a certain country or a group of countries.

This year, the draft resolution contains mainly technical amendments as compared with the previous one. In addition, in paragraph 4 it welcomes the commencement of the work of the new Group of Governmental Experts. We believe that this remark will emphasize the significance of convening the Group of Governmental Experts, as well as the interest of all countries in the successful conclusion of its work and the adoption of the final report.

We note with satisfaction that the number of sponsors of our draft resolution has grown, clearly indicating that international community is fully aware of the importance of international information security issues, and the serious intention of States to continue to discuss them within the United Nations. We believe that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus, as it always has been. We call on all the Member States to support our draft resolution by sponsoring it, and, of

course, we thank the large number of States that have already done so.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Mongolia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.49.

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia): I give me great pleasure and honour to introduce, on behalf of Austria, Australia, the People's Republic of China, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own delegation, Mongolia, draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.49, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

The draft resolution has been prepared based on the Secretary-General's report (A/69/140) on the implementation of resolution 67/52 and discussions held thereon. The Secretary-General reports on the activities related to broadening further the international recognition of the status and national implementation of Mongolia's unique legislation on the issue. The report also dwells on the promotion of the non-nuclear aspects of the country's security, which include economic, environmental, information, human and regional aspects of its security, as well as cooperation and the assistance provided by United Nations entities in the afore-mentioned areas. This was done based on the understanding reached ab initio and reflected in the previous resolutions that Mongolia's status would be credible and effective if some other external security concerns are also addressed. Hence, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report.

The draft resolution is a result of consultations that this delegation had with the interested delegations and sponsors. It is based on the previous resolutions on the item adopted without a vote, with some technical updates.

Geographically, Mongolia borders on two nuclear-weapon States only. This widely recognized unique case needed an equally unique approach. Hence, Mongolia adopted legislation clearly defining the status at the national level, which was welcomed by the international community, as reflected in resolution 67/52. Also, Mongolia introduced the issue in the General Assembly, which in 1998 welcomed Mongolia's initiative and declared that its internationally recognized status would contribute to regional stability and confidence-building. Ever since, the General Assembly has been supporting

and welcoming Mongolia's efforts to promote and strengthen the status.

The five nuclear-weapon States in 2012 signed a joint declaration whereby they pledged to respect Mongolia's status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it. A broader approach to Mongolia's external security and the pledge by the Permanent Five, including its two neighbours, to respect the status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it, constitute the specifics of the unique approach to Mongolia's case.

By paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in strengthening its external security and nuclear-weapon-free status. When the draft resolution is adopted, Mongolia will look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations bodies in promoting the non-nuclear aspects of its security.

We would be more than happy if other delegations would join us as sponsors of the draft resolution. My delegation expresses the hope that the draft resolution will be adopted, as in previous cases, without a vote.

Mr. Mwewa (Zambia): I have the honour to deliver a statement on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Science and technology are increasingly being recognized as the major drivers of the global economy by augmenting the factors of production. Regrettably, science and technology also provide opportunities for some individuals to commit crimes, such as the illegal use of the Internet by criminals and terrorists, who are increasingly using information communication technologies (ICTs) to further their aims. In addition, technologies can be rapidly militarized and pose a potential threat to international security.

That notwithstanding, science and technology can play a role in international security and disarmament through the development of technologies to monitor compliance by States with their disarmament obligations. In this regard, Zambia enacted the Information and Communications Technologies Act 15 in 2009. The overall objective of the ICT Act is to provide a conducive and enabling regulatory environment that will foster a competitive and efficient ICT sector in Zambia. The Act provides for the regulating of Internet cafes, crime

detection, capacity-building, raising awareness and the strengthening of reporting mechanisms and protecting the vulnerable.

Ms. González Ramón (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

Zambia also attaches great importance to the need to formulate a high-level network and information security policies within and among States, fostering collaboration among the public and private sectors and other institutions in order to strengthen networking and ensure effective coordination with concerned stakeholders.

Strengthened regional and international networking on science and technology in the context of international security can assist in improving transparency, confidence-building and promoting verification, as well as deterring future conflicts. Furthermore, international cooperation in the scientific and technological fields can also assist in the improvement of the physical security of nuclear facilities and materials and further help detect illegal nuclear enrichment activities. This can be in the form of research and nuclear arms-control technologies.

There is therefore a need for all States to give impetus to mutual legal assistance and law enforcement in this sector. States should also reinforce cooperation between national institutions and the private sector, including by developing and strengthening sustainable long-term capabilities. Zambia therefore wishes to call on all States to cooperate on this matter, as cybercrime can be successfully combated only through international cooperation.

Although scientific and technological advancement has led to increased integration among the global community and promoted the economic and social development of countries, it can have negative implications for international security and disarmament, as it can lead to the development of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction. It is therefore important for the global community to cooperate in ensuring that scientific and technological advancements are tailored to benefit, and not destroy, humankind.

Mr. Herráiz España (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to make a few remarks on security issues related to information and communication technologies (ICTs).

These technologies, and particularly the Internet, have been increasingly present in all areas of our society. Cyberspace offers us many opportunities, contributes to the promotion of political and social integration around the world and is an essential element of countries' growth and prosperity. All of the economic sectors and basic services, such as finance, health, transportation, electricity and public administration, depend on information and communication technologies.

Dependence on ICTs makes us vulnerable and exposes us to risks and threats that were unthinkable only a few years ago. The malicious use of cyberspace could endanger countries' security, economic interests and fundamental rights, such as the right to privacy, data protection and even the physical integrity of persons.

Therefore, cybersecurity must be a priority for Governments and society as a whole. We are convinced that States, in collaboration with key sectors, must take responsibility to equip themselves with the skills and resources needed to manage and respond to cyberattacks that may occur on the Internet. It is not a question of controlling or limiting the free use of the Internet, but of striking a balance between security and freedom, that is, we must ensure a free and secure cyberspace while also contributing to international peace and security. To achieve that, cooperation is crucial, given the nature of cyberattacks, which cross borders and may involve Governments, organized crime groups, terrorists or criminals.

We would like to contribute to this effort by appealing to Member States to encourage greater international cooperation through exchanges of information and sharing new technologies and tools, facilitating law enforcement and the prosecution of cybercrime and supporting capacity-building for countries that need it. As we have expressed on various occasions, we also believe that an institutional debate is necessary in order to establish global standards, identify best practices and develop international regulations that ensure peace and security in the use of information and communication technologies.

Spain believes that the United Nations must play a leading role in this process aimed at reaching an international consensus on key issues, such as universal access to information and communication technologies, online security, data protection and respect for human rights in cyberspace. To that end, on 21 March Spain

organized a seminar on cybersecurity in Madrid at the level of permanent representatives, and that conference resulted in a document containing conclusions on how to contribute to the debate on these issues.

Spain participates in the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security with a pragmatic, open and inclusive focus. Spain recognizes the importance of the recommendations contained in the 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/68/98) relating to the establishment of confidence-building measures, capacity-building and the acknowledgement that the rule of international law, including laws related to the use of force, military humanitarian law and the protection of human rights, is as applicable in cyberspace as it is in the physical world.

In accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly, the fourth Group of Governmental Experts should go even further and try to reach a consensus on specific measures for international cooperation and on how to apply international law to cyberspace, while taking into account its specific characteristics. In this regard, Spain believes that the Group should also reflect on what would be the most appropriate format and process in the future in order to address all these issues and ensure greater participation and commitment by Member States. To achieve that goal, we must be capable of offering formulas that ensure this type of participation. The organization of debates and exchanges of opinions on cybersecurity in the United Nations and the interaction between the Group of Governmental Experts and interested States will, in our opinion, contribute to a greater awareness and involvement of Member States.

Cybersecurity has become a strategic priority for my country, and we are taking steps to ensure a safe environment for public administration, businesses, the scientific community and citizens. Several months ago, Spain developed and adopted a national cybersecurity strategy, which provides a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity and an internal coordination system to prevent, detect and respond to attacks and mitigate their impact. Spain's model, which has been considered good practice by some countries and international organizations, combines the regulatory and coordinating role of the State with close collaboration with the private sector.

In conclusion, I would like express our willingness to continue working in the framework of the United Nations, in the Group of Governmental Experts and with other interested States, in order to achieve an international consensus on all these issues and to contribute to capacity-building for Member States.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47.

Ms. Roopnarine (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

I take the floor to formally introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". This draft resolution was first introduced in 2010, and since that period, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and the sponsors of the draft have invited the First Committee to recognize in a comprehensive manner the role of women, including in decision-making processes relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Since then, the First Committee has adopted resolutions 65/69 of 2010, 67/48 of 2012 and 68/33 of 2013 on this subject. It should be noted that these resolutions transcend the notion of women as victims of armed conflict and armed violence and provide an acknowledgement of and support for women's participation and their actual and potential contribution to the process of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47 builds on its predecessor resolutions and reflects recent progress made in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and related matters. The draft resolution is expansive in scope, highlights specific strengthened commitments and requests that States undertake concrete initiatives and accord priority to the leadership role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

It will be recalled that resolution 68/33 provided only technical updates and that there were no substantive changes to the text contained in resolution 67/48. Consequently, we now take the opportunity to highlight what we consider to be important changes to bring the resolution in line with what has transpired over

the last two years as they relate to the role of women in disarmament. Accordingly, there is language relating to women's participation in preventing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, bearing in mind the significant work being done to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, especially in regions that are disproportionately affected by this illicit trade. In the same vein, we also wish to acknowledge the imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 24 December and the language in the ATT that addresses the issue of serious acts of violence against women and children.

After informal consultations of the whole, as well as bilateral consultations, a number of States, including sponsors and others, articulated that progressive discourse on the issue of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control cannot be delinked from the ATT, and such discourse would be deficient if there is no mention of the important role women could play in assisting in the implementation of a number of provisions in the ATT.

Additionally, the draft resolution, for the first time, encourages Member States to strengthen the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age in order to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on women and girls.

Trinidad and Tobago and the sponsors of the draft resolution have concluded that it should be implemented efficiently and effectively and that there should be a reasonable amount of time for the preparation of reports. Consequently, we recommend that the First Committee should address the issue on a biennial basis, as opposed to an annual basis, which is the practice to date. In this regard, we thank the Secretary-General for his report on the measures taken by Member States to implement resolution 68/33 (A/69/114) and request the Secretary-General to report further on Member States' implementation of the current draft resolution.

Trinidad and Tobago and the sponsors of this draft text strongly believe that document A/C.1/69/L.47 is more streamlined and focused in its intent. If one may use the number of sponsors as an indicator of the interest shown in the potential of this draft resolution, then it is noteworthy that there has been a progressive increase in the number of sponsors of the resolution since its birth in 2010.

Trinidad and Tobago takes this opportunity to thank the sponsors and all other delegations who have shown tremendous flexibility during the informal consultations and bilateral consultations on contents of the draft resolution, which have enriched the text before us today. With regard to the importance of this matter to the international community, we are once again requesting the support of all Member States for this draft resolution to be adopted by consensus, as with previous resolutions on this matter.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): We have now heard the last speaker for the cluster on other disarmament measures and international security.

The Committee will now hear the statements delivered by representatives of 16 non-governmental organizations, in keeping with the established practice of the Committee. I request the speakers to kindly keep their statements short, no longer than three minutes, and to begin by stating the topic of their presentation.

I shall now suspend the meeting to enable us continue in an informal setting.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): We have exhausted the time available to us, and I propose to adjourn the meeting now.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.