



# General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

## First Committee

**24**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Tuesday, 4 November 2014, 10 a.m.  
New York

Official Records

*Chair:* Mr. Rattray ..... (Jamaica)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### Agenda items 87 to 104 (continued)

#### Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

**The Chair:** This morning, we will take up the remaining draft resolutions before the Committee, as contained in informal paper 5, which has been circulated among delegations. We will begin with the draft resolutions in cluster 1, “Nuclear weapons”.

I now call on delegations wishing to make general statements or to introduce draft resolutions under cluster 1.

**Mr. Mra** (Myanmar): I have the honour to make the following general statement on the draft resolution entitled “Nuclear disarmament”, contained in document A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1.

Nuclear disarmament has always been at the top of the disarmament agenda for many of us. We firmly believe that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The unanimous decision of the International Court of Justice also confirmed that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. With that in mind, Myanmar, together with other like-minded sponsors, has once again submitted this draft resolution.

This year’s draft resolution contains technical updates to reflect the latest developments. We have welcomed the re-establishment of the informal working group by the Conference on Disarmament on 3 March 2014, the signing by the nuclear-weapon States of the Protocol of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in New York on 6 May 2014, the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace on 29 January 2014 during the second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which was held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014.

The draft resolution also recalls the declaration on nuclear disarmament made at the 17th Ministerial Conference of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers on 28 and 29 May 2014, in which the Ministers reaffirmed the firm commitment of the Movement to the goal of a safer world for all and to achieving peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons, and reiterated their support for the convening, by 2018 at the very latest, of a high-level international conference of the United Nations on nuclear disarmament to review the progress achieved in that regard.

The draft resolution again calls for actions to be taken by various players in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. In the light of that, we would like to invite all States to join our efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world by giving their continued support to the draft resolution.

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**Mrs. Del Sol Dominguez** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to make a general statement about cluster 1, “Nuclear weapons”.

Cuba is co-sponsoring the two draft resolutions on which action will be taken today under this cluster, namely, A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, entitled “Nuclear disarmament”, and A/C.1/69/L.23, entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons”.

Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, “Nuclear disarmament”, is one of the draft resolutions presented to the First Committee to address more fully the issue of nuclear disarmament, which is and must remain a top priority in the field of disarmament. In this draft resolution, important obligations and commitments to the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and the need to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons are set forth. In addition, this year’s draft resolution has been updated to welcome the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which was held for the first time on September 26. Similarly, Cuba welcomes the historic proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, as agreed at the second summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in January of this year.

We support draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23, “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons”, on the basis of the relevance of the issues raised by the International Court of Justice in 1996, when it came to the unanimous conclusion that there was an obligation to pursue in good faith and conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

We hope that both draft resolutions obtain the affirmative vote of the large majority of delegations, as has been the case in previous years.

**The Chair:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft resolutions listed under cluster 1, “Nuclear weapons”.

We shall first proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.6/L.23, entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons”.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Nakano** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23 was introduced by the representative of Malaysia at the 11th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/69/L.23 and A/C.1/69/CRP.4/Rev.7.

**The Chair:** A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Micronesia (Federated States of), Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

*Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23 was adopted by 109 votes to 24, with 18 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Ethiopia, Guyana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Sierra Leone informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of Belarus and Montenegro informed the Secretariat that they had intended to abstain.]

**The Chair:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Nakano** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", was introduced by the representative of Myanmar at the 12th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1.

**The Chair:** A recorded vote has been requested. A separate, recorded vote has been requested on operative paragraph 16. We shall first take action on paragraph 16.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Pakistan

*Abstaining:*

France, Israel, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Operative paragraph 16 was retained by 146 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Belarus, Guyana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and South Africa informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

**The Chair:** The Committee will proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, as a whole.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana,

Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Armenia, Austria, India, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, Montenegro, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Uzbekistan

*Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by 102 votes to 41, with 17 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Guyana, the Lao Democratic People's Republic, Morocco, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Belarus informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

**The Chair:** I now call on delegations wishing to make statements in explanation of vote on the draft resolutions just adopted.

**Mr. Varma (India):** India abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, and we would like to explain the reasons why.

India attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament and shares the main objective of the draft resolution, which is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. We have been constrained to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1 because of certain references to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, on which India's position is well known.

However, our vote should not be seen as indicating opposition to other provisions of the draft resolution, which we believe are consistent with the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM) and India's national positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Those provisions include references to the outcome document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2); NAM summit statements; the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice; the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time; the role and work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), including the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the CD as the highest priority; reference to document CD/1999 consisting of the proposal of the Group of 21 for a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention; the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty in the CD on the basis of the Shannon mandate; and the call for convening an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date, to identify and deal with concrete measures for nuclear disarmament.

We compliment the lead sponsor of the draft resolution, Myanmar, for retaining vital principled positions in the draft resolution that are supported by the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations.

**Mr. Sano (Japan):** Since Japan abstained in the voting on both draft resolutions A/C.1/69/L.23 and A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, I would like to explain Japan's position on its voting.

Regarding draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons", due to the immense and destructive



power and lethal force of nuclear weapons, we believe that their use clearly does not comply with the spirit of humanitarianism, which has its philosophical foundation in international law. Nevertheless, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice as it is set out in this draft resolution demonstrates the complexity of the issue. We support the unanimous conclusion of the judges of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and conclude a negotiation leading to nuclear disarmament. On the other hand, we are convinced that realistic measures are required in order to achieve steady progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is from that point of view that we believe that the conditions have not yet ripened to call upon all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of the nuclear weapons convention. Japan nevertheless will continue to make maximum efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

With respect to draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", we share the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which is the focus of the draft resolution. However, in order to steadily implement concrete measures for nuclear disarmament, we attach the greatest importance to united actions by the international community, including the nuclear-weapon States. In that regard, there remains a difference between my country's view and the approach of the draft resolution.

**Mr. Kim Ju Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I have requested the floor to quickly explain my delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea voted in favour of the draft resolution as my country aligns itself with the Non-Aligned Movement's principled position on nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority. Nuclear disarmament should take precedence over non-proliferation because the root cause of proliferation is the threat of use of nuclear weapons. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute solution.

In all sincerity, those nuclear-weapon Powers that possess the largest nuclear arsenals should lead the disarmament process. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a little worried about the continued requests for adherence to the Treaty

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, but as it supports the primary focus of the draft resolution it voted in favour.

**Mr. Lindell** (Sweden): I have the honour to take the floor in order to explain Sweden's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23, on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Sweden remains supportive of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, including its unanimous conclusion that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament. Sweden's vote in favour of the draft resolution reflects this stance and my Government's strong commitment to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I would like to underscore, however, that Sweden does not see the immediate commencement of multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention as the only available option for achieving that goal. Consistent with our obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Sweden will continue to engage in negotiations in good faith on effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Sweden looks forward to participating actively in the Vienna conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as well in next year's NPT Review Conference.

**Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan): I requested the floor to explain the position of my delegation on draft resolutions A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1 and A/C.1/69/L.23.

First, with regard to A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are goals that Pakistan has consistently supported. My delegation applauds several elements of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/69/L.31/Rev.1, including, inter alia, the call for the establishment of an ad hoc committee in the Conference on Disarmament on nuclear disarmament, the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on negative security assurances and the need for taking into account the security interests of all States while negotiating disarmament treaties. However, we cannot agree to the calls for the full implementation of the Action Plan of the last Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

in line with our known position on the NPT. We have therefore been constrained to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution.

Paragraph 16 of the draft resolution calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). It is indeed ironic that in a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament it has been decided that only the non-proliferation-centric aspect — that is, FMCT negotiations — are to be reflected. This anomaly notwithstanding, Pakistan, in line with its clear and unambiguous position on the FMCT, has decided to vote against this paragraph.

With respect to draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.23, Pakistan has always supported the cause of nuclear disarmament and the goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. There are many elements of this draft resolution that Pakistan agrees with, and it therefore voted in favour. Pakistan, not being a party to the NPT, finds that the references to the principles and objectives of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the 2000 Review Conference and the action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution are unwarranted.

We have voted in favour of the draft resolution in the spirit of our commitment to nuclear disarmament. However, we have also decided to register our concerns with the references to the NPT therein.

**The Chair:** The Committee will now turn its attention to the remaining items under cluster 5, “Other disarmament measures and international security”.

I give the floor to delegations wishing to make general statements or to introduce draft resolutions under cluster 5.

**Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago): I take the floor to make oral revisions to draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, which was introduced by my delegation on 28 October in this Committee.

We wish to propose a few oral revisions. In the eighth preambular paragraph, we wish to delete the following language: “or serious acts of violence against women and children”. Consequently, the eighth preambular paragraph should now read as follows:

“Noting the imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, and therefore encouraging

States parties to fully implement all the provisions of the Treaty, including the provisions on serious acts of gender-based violence”.

Additionally, in operative paragraph 7, we wish to remove the words “gender-based violence” and replace the word “girls” with the word “children” at the end of the paragraph. Consequently, operative paragraph 7 will now read as follows:

“Also calls upon all States to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women and children”.

The revisions that I have just read out were agreed to after several rounds of informal and bilateral consultations in order to obtain and address the broadest range of views. It should be noted that all consultations were conducted in strict observance of transparency and good faith, two of the cardinal principles for the conduct of negotiations, especially in the multilateral setting.

As a consequence, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all delegations — and I underscore the word “all” — which demonstrated a high degree of flexibility when trying to find compromise language, especially as up to a few minutes before today’s meeting began. I have a special word of thanks for the sponsors whose ranks have increased almost to 100 States, making the draft resolution one of the most popular, if I may say so, draft resolutions of the First Committee. Therefore, it is the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago’s humble request that, as has obtained in the past, this draft resolution be adopted by consensus.

Finally, my delegation would be remiss if we did not pay tribute to you, Mr. Chair, for your excellent stewardship in conducting the affairs of this Committee. It took the Caribbean Community almost four decades before we able to get to chair the First Committee. Your stewardship, Sir, is in no small measure consistent with Jamaica’s contribution to the multilateral process since its independence in 1962.

**Mr. Aljowaily** (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of Egypt makes this statement on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States.

The Arab States believe in the important role played by women in disarmament. We recognize the importance of women’s participation, and indeed the need for women to participate with men on an equal

footing and in an effective and efficient manner in all aspects of disarmament. Our States believe that women can make a great contribution in disarmament at the national and international levels, not only with respect to disarmament, but also with respect to non-proliferation, in order to achieve international peace and security.

In accordance with the oral amendment made by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago this morning, the Arab Group confirms that the term “gender-based violence”, which appears in draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, is defined in accordance with the principles recognized internationally as follows:

*(spoke in English)*

“Violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.”

*(spoke in Arabic)*

We therefore wanted to make this clarification.

**The Chair:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, as orally revised.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Nakano** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47 was introduced by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago at the 19th meeting, on 28 October, and was orally revised just now by that delegation. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/69/L.47 and A/C.1/69/CRP.4/Rev.7. In addition, Peru has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

**The Chair:** A separate, recorded vote has been requested on a phrase contained in the eighth preambular paragraph, as orally revised, of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47. The Committee will now take action on the eighth preambular paragraph, as orally revised.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi,

Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia

*Against:*

None

*Abstaining:*

Armenia, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

*A phrase of the eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as orally revised, was retained by 139 votes to none, with 24 abstentions.*

**The Chair:** The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on a point of order.

**Mr. Robatjazi** (Islamic Republic of Iran): When a vote is taken on a separate paragraph, automatically a recorded vote is taken on the draft resolution as a whole. It is my delegation's wish to have a recorded vote taken on the draft resolution as a whole.

**The Chair:** At the conclusion of the vote on the eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as orally revised, the Secretariat had not received a request for a vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

The established legal opinion of the Secretariat is that a paragraph vote does not prevent consensus adoption of the draft resolution as a whole. Notwithstanding, a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as orally revised, has now been requested, as a whole.

I call on the representative of Trinidad and Tobago on a point of order.

**Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago): I think good faith sometimes means bad faith in negotiations — that is something else by itself. The Chair has indicated the legal position, and rules must mean something. If the legal position is that, and I respectfully submit, there was no request for a vote, and also taking into consideration that a paragraph may be voted on separately, without prejudice to action on the resolution as a whole, the question will arise: What rule is being invoked in order to call for a vote? Is it a doctrine of necessity, which has no applicability to the proceedings of this morning? That is the question to be answered.

**The Chair:** I might clarify that. Even though, yes, I did quote the legal opinion of the Secretariat in that regard, the fact remains that there is now, at this juncture, a request by a representative for a recorded vote on the draft resolution as a whole. It is that request that the Chair is now responding to.

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as orally revised, as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of),

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

*Against:*

None

*Abstaining:*

None

*Draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 171 votes to none, with no abstentions.*

**The Chair:** I now give the floor to delegations wishing to make statements in explanation of vote after the voting.



**Mr. Varma** (India): India would like to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47. India voted in favour of the draft resolution as it fully supports the objectives the draft resolution seeks to promote. We were, however, constrained to abstain in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph, which contains a reference to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As explained with reference to draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.32 on the ATT, India is conducting an internal review of its position and, pending its conclusion, has abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.32. Therefore, we believe that any reference in this draft resolution to the Arms Trade Treaty applies only to and among States parties to the Treaty.

**Ms. Del Sol Dominguez** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation wishes to explain its position with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”.

We welcome the submission of this important draft resolution and we support its adoption, as we fully share its objectives. The participation of women at all levels of decision-making must be strengthened, in both national and international institutions, in order to design policies on issues relating to the promotion of international peace and security. For this purpose, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council provide effective follow-up to the international commitments agreed upon by States on this issue.

Cuban women participate widely in the life of our country. There is a large female presence in all bodies of the Cuban State and Government. Women represent 48.86 per cent of the representatives to our Parliament. Indeed, the participation of women in Parliament in Cuba is the third highest in the world. Furthermore, 41.94 per cent of the members of the State Council of Cuba are women.

With a view to the future, it is important that the draft resolution maintain its balance and avoid stressing specific categories of weapons, such as small arms and light weapons, at the expense of others, including weapons of mass destruction and sophisticated conventional weapons.

In the case of paragraph 7, we understand that each State has the right to freely determine the risk assessment criteria that it believes are appropriate and necessary, in accordance with its domestic legislation.

With regard to the eighth preambular paragraph, we believe that the mention of a single specific treaty is not consistent with a generic resolution, such as this one, and it introduces an element of imbalance. Other relevant instruments are not mentioned, which could give room to the mistaken interpretation that they are less relevant. Furthermore, as is well known, the Arms Trade Treaty, which is the only instrument mentioned in the draft resolution, does not enjoy the consensus of Member States. That is why the delegation of Cuba abstained in the separate voting on the eighth preambular paragraph.

Cuba will continue to support and promote practical actions directed at achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. We will also maintain an exchange with the main authors of this important draft resolution with a view to contributing as far as possible towards its continued perfection.

**Mr. Robotjazi** (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation would like to explain its position on the draft resolution entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, contained in document A/C.1/69/L.47. We abstained in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph because it contains unacceptable language referring to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT is an instrument full of legal flaws and loopholes. The ATT is not a consensus-based Treaty and it was adopted by vote, so it cannot be referred to in a prescriptive manner in a consensual resolution of the General Assembly.

We constructively engaged in consultations with the main sponsor of the draft resolution to find a compromise solution on this paragraph and, in this regard, in a spirit of flexibility and good faith we put forward reasonable proposals for consideration by the sponsors of the draft resolution. However, those proposals were not accommodated. We voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole since we support its main goal. However, we would like to place on record that the draft resolution is acceptable to my delegation in as much as it is in line with our Constitution, laws and regulations and administrative procedures.

**Mr. Isnomo** (Indonesia): Indonesia wishes to explain its decision to abstain in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”.

While abstaining in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph, Indonesia has decided to vote in support of the draft resolution as a whole, based on the strong conviction that women and men have an equal right and role to play in the attainment of international security, and that the role of women, in ensuring the effective implementation of practical disarmament measures, needs to be further developed.

Indonesia is party to eight of the nine core human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, along with both of their optional protocols, and we remain steadfast in the promotion of the rights of women and children at the national, regional and international levels.

Having said that, as a State that has several substantive concerns with regard to the Arms Trade Treaty, Indonesia would like to state its position that any reference to this Treaty in the eighth preambular paragraph of resolution A/C.1/69/L.47 is applicable solely to the implementation of the Treaty among its States parties. It is for that reason that we have decided to abstain in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph.

Indonesia's commitment to the advancement of the role of women in international security, as well as the promotion of the rights of women and children, remains strong. We will continue to engage with the international community for the advancement and betterment of gender-based issues, as defined consistently in existing international human rights instruments.

**Mr. El Oumni** (Morocco): Morocco associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States.

Morocco voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, as it has no problem with any of the provisions. We would like to thank the lead sponsor of the draft resolution for its understanding and openness to our proposals, which allowed us to positively consider the draft resolution. The draft resolution has a specific subject. We hope that the sponsors will keep the text focused and will, in the future, avoid bringing any issues that prevent the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote.

**Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan): I would like to explain my delegation's position with regard to draft resolution

A/C.1/69/L.47. My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". We commend the sponsors of the draft resolution for highlighting the role of women in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The draft resolution rightly points out that equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security.

On certain elements of the draft resolution, however, my delegation feels that a more inclusive approach could have been adopted to accommodate different constructive proposals. On the elements outlined in paragraphs 4 and 7, while we fully support the efforts to understand the impact of armed violence in general and to establish an effective national risk assessment criteria, we are convinced that there should neither be any hierarchy of violence nor prioritization of one particular type of risk assessment over others. The draft resolution misses out on two other key elements, which are central to the viability of the proposed measures: the availability of required resources and existence of national laws and the varying priorities of States. We hope that the sponsors will take into account these elements in the future.

**Mr. Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47. My delegation voted for the draft resolution as a whole, but abstained in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph, which mentions the Arms Trade Treaty. That Treaty was not adopted by consensus, lacks balance and fails to address many important issues, including foreign occupation and the right of occupied peoples to self-determination.

Furthermore, the text of the Treaty does not explicitly state the prohibition on the transfer of weapons to non-State actors and armed groups. Aggression is also not mentioned in the Treaty. We support the worldwide trend to create an international community that does not use force or threaten the use of force. We seek to legalize the arms trade, since illicit trafficking in weapons endangers international peace and security. We are currently suffering on account of the illicit trafficking in weapons in my country, Syria.

**Mr. Aljowaily** (Egypt): I take the floor to explain Egypt's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". Egypt voted in favour of the draft resolution,

with due reference made to the position of Egypt with regard to some of the terminology used in the draft resolution, as was expressed in detail in the statement delivered on behalf of the members of the League of Arab States.

Egypt abstained in the separate voting on the eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47. In this regard, Egypt wishes to reiterate all the elements contained in its explanation of vote on draft resolution number A/C.1/69/L.32/Rev.1, entitled “The Arms Trade Treaty”. There is no need to repeat these elements at this time, given our well-known position with regard to that Treaty. I wish, however, to highlight that Egypt stresses that any reference to the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty is applicable solely to the implementation of the Treaty among its States parties.

**Mr. Samvelian** (Armenia): Armenia fully supported the draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.47, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, voting for the draft resolution as a whole, while abstaining in the voting on the eighth preambular paragraph, which contains a reference to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Last week, following the voting on two draft resolutions, contained in documents A/C.1/69/L.4 and A/C.1/69/L.35, in cluster 4, Armenia presented its position on the ATT (see A/C.1/69/PV.21), making it crystal clear that the Treaty is unbalanced and non-inclusive and lacks many elements. That is why Armenia has strong reservations with regard to the Treaty. I am not going to repeat my position, which is recorded in the explanation of vote by Armenia on the same subject last week while considering the draft resolutions with a reference to the ATT.

**The Chair:** We have now concluded action on the draft resolution contained in informal paper 5.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Nakano** (Secretary of the Committee): On Thursday, 30 October, last week, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.15, entitled “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”. A text of the oral statement was provided to me on the day after that, on Friday, 31 October. I wish to read the text aloud for the record. The text is also posted on the QuickFirst website for all delegations to download. The oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.15, the General Assembly would decide to convene, within existing resources, a joint ad hoc meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability”.

*Ms. Vlădulescu (Romania), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

The joint ad hoc meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) will be provided services using entitlement of either the First Committee or the Fourth Committee. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/69/L.15, no additional conference-servicing requirements would be associated with the convening of a joint ad hoc meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

The attention of the Committee is also drawn to provisions of section VI of resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 68/246 of 27 December 2013, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

**The Acting Chair:** The Committee has thus concluded action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under the agenda items allocated to it.

Our last order of business is to adopt the provisional programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2015, as contained in document A/C.1/69/CRP.5, which has been distributed to all delegations.

Delegations will note that the document is based on the practices of the Committee in previous years, especially with regard to the total number of meetings allocated to the general debate and action stages of the

Committee's work next year. As delegations will further note, instead of 11 meetings, which we had this year for the thematic segment, 12 meetings are allocated for the next year. The extra meeting is proposed, taking into account the growing number of speakers we have seen in recent years during thematic discussions. It is recalled that the Committee decided last year to allocate 12 meetings to thematic discussions, but it was revised at the plenary level in light of the United Nations holiday in October. The said United Nations holiday will be in September next year, making it possible for the First Committee to have 12 meetings for the thematic segment.

I would like to remind all delegations that the First Committee shares its conference facilities and other resources with the Fourth Committee. Consequently, the draft provisional programme of the First Committee for 2015, which is before the Committee, has been prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Fourth Committee. The two Committees will continue to coordinate their work and maintain a sequential pattern of conducting their meetings, in order to maximize shared resources. The draft programme under consideration will, of course, be finalized and issued in its final form before the First Committee starts its substantive work at its next session.

If there are no questions or comments on the draft programme of work and timetable, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2015, as contained in document A/C.1/69/CRP.5?

*It was so decided.*

*The Chair returned to the Chair.*

### Statement by the Chair

**The Chair:** Before I adjourn this meeting and close the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the First Committee to a close, allow me to make some final remarks as Chair.

As we conclude this main part of the sixty-ninth session of the First Committee, allow me to warmly commend the entire membership of the Committee and each and every representative for the cordial, constructive and cooperative atmosphere evidenced during the past four weeks of intensive discussions. I particularly welcomed the intellectual rigour and seriousness of purpose with which delegations approached their work during the period. This year,

the Committee completed its work in four weeks with 24 meetings. A record-breaking 107 statements were made within the general debate segment, compared with between 98 and 101 in recent years. In relation to the thematic discussion segment, the trend towards a growing number of speakers continued, especially in the nuclear weapon cluster, where a record-breaking 70 speakers made interventions, compared with 59, 52, 45 and 37 in the sixty-eighth to sixty-fifth sessions, respectively. In terms of draft resolutions, at this sixty-ninth session the Committee adopted 63 draft texts, of which 57 were draft resolutions and 6 draft decisions. This represents the largest number over the past 10 years. A little over half of these were adopted without a vote.

Permit me now to make some comments on the substantive issues that featured on the Committee's agenda during the sixty-ninth session.

Without exception, this year's deliberations continued to accord priority attention to the world's deadliest weapons of mass destruction, particularly the most lethal and indiscriminate of all — nuclear weapons. Member States continued to underscore the need to abide by and accelerate nuclear disarmament commitments and to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. The Committee was particularly seized of the importance of a successful 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with many States putting forward proposals that would contribute to such an outcome.

Regrettably, the divergence in views in how to move forward on the complex issue of nuclear disarmament continued to characterize and stymie these deliberations. While recognizing the core national and international security concerns that form the crux of the various positions taken on those matters, I very much hope that those discordant views will not continue to prevent the consensus that is so urgently needed. Notably, as momentum builds towards renewed efforts to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, many States have made strong calls for addressing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Our Committee once again recognized the important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones as the second front of nuclear disarmament and an important pillar in the promotion of regional security and stability. It welcomed, in several draft resolutions, the signing of the protocols to the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone and adopted a resolution convening



the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia in 2015. The lack of progress surrounding the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was a matter of serious concern during the deliberations, as evidenced in the calls for the urgent convening of the conference on its establishment.

There is no doubt that all delegations take very seriously the threat that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of non-State actors, in particular terrorist organizations. In that regard, delegations have not failed to highlight the importance of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of universalizing those instruments and to full compliance with their provisions. The Committee also commended the almost complete elimination of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles of the Syrian Arab Republic and highlighted the joint United Nations/Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons mission as the model for how the international community should respond, within the multilateral framework, to such grave breaches of international law.

Issues relating to conventional weapons were well represented on the agenda and positively discussed. Notably, the Committee welcomed the fiftieth ratification of the historic Arms Trade Treaty, which will allow for its entry into force on 24 December. I fully share the sentiments expressed by one delegation that the Arms Trade Treaty is a victory for the world's people, with real potential to eradicate the illicit arms trade and genuinely contribute to humanitarian objectives. Importantly, many States have stressed the importance of ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Treaty's provisions and promoting its universalization. The upcoming first Conference of States Parties, to be held in 2015, is of significance, as it will provide an opportunity to discuss the Treaty's implementation, functioning and efficacy.

Representatives also engaged in the consideration of the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, particularly in relation to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and on measures taken to regulate and prevent the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

The Committee took up other subjects that have profound implications for our common future,

including the placement of weapons in outer space; the impact of information and communication technology on international security; the relationship between disarmament and development; disarmament and non-proliferation education; women and disarmament; and regional cooperation. In the sphere of outer space, the Committee has sought to implement one of the recommendations emanating from the 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), by agreeing to convene a joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees to review the issue of substantive transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

The Committee heard from several delegations that called for the need to urgently address the malign application of information and communications technology in facilitating cyberwarfare. They also called for information and communication technology to be exclusively used for peaceful purposes. Delegations also underscored the need to further examine the application of international law in this area, together with developing transparency and confidence-building measures.

Emerging issues did not escape the scrutiny of the Committee. One of those was the use of fully autonomous weapons. We heard concerns expressed that such weapons systems, which are facilitated by artificial intelligence, posed serious ethical questions and elicited fundamental concerns related to their compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Another emerging issue that was debated was the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the attendant humanitarian harm caused to civilians.

I believe that one of the most urgent messages that rang out loud and clear from the deliberations and draft resolutions of the First Committee this year is the need to revitalize the disarmament machinery, which is in danger of losing both its credibility and its relevance. Let us do our utmost to make that happen by taking a fresh approach to addressing the structural rigidities that hamper work in the Conference on Disarmament, while renewing our commitment to achieving consensus in the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Indeed, strong efforts have been made during the course of this session of the First Committee to break the 15-year deadlock in the Commission and create the conditions for a productive triennial cycle, as reflected in the draft resolution that has been adopted. As has been said by

the Commission's outgoing Chairman, the Commission cannot continue under the present rules of engagement.

Given the summary I have just made, I ask the question of whether our Committee has advanced the cause of disarmament and international security through its work. It is up to each delegation, and certainly for outside observers above all, to evaluate our performance. Undoubtedly, differences persist within the Committee, particularly on the questions relating to nuclear weapons. However, we must appreciate, and it is encouraging to note, the positive and constructive tone of our discussions. Let us therefore build upon areas of consensus and work together to iron out our differences. I hope that that will provide the fertile ground upon which to make progress in future discussions and negotiations on questions of disarmament.

As members are all aware, not only will 2015 mark the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, but it is also an important year for the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. We should not squander that opportunity, but work to fulfil the Charter's noble goal of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war by reducing and eliminating the means to wage war.

Before concluding my remarks, I should like say a few words about the organizational aspects of the Committee's work. We continue to confront the question of how the Committee can better organize itself to manage its time more efficiently and cover all the issues on its agenda. It is clear from this year's session that we need to figure out how best to facilitate the growing number of speakers wishing to take the floor, particularly in the nuclear weapons and conventional weapons clusters. I intend to facilitate an informal session at which the Committee can further examine how best to accomplish this.

The Committee has continued its practice of enabling the constructive participation of our civil society partners at the end of the thematic discussions. We highly value the expertise, diversity of perspectives and overall contribution of civil society in developing and promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control norms. However, I believe we can enhance their contribution to our annual deliberations, and to that end, I have taken the liberty of submitting a proposal for members to consider moving their intervention to the end of the general debate. In that connection, I will convene informal consultations on 20 November to receive members' views on this proposal.

In conclusion, allow me to express my profound thanks and deep gratitude to all members of the Committee for the cooperation, support, advice and, above all, understanding they have extended to me personally and as the Chair of the Committee throughout the session. Without their abundance of goodwill, flexibility and serious-minded participation, we could not have achieved a productive session. It has indeed been a distinct honour and pleasure to serve as Chair and, together with my stellar Bureau, to have facilitated the work of the Committee at this session. I have enjoyed every single moment of it.

I cannot fail to underscore and express appreciation for the excellent working atmosphere that prevailed at all times within the First Committee Bureau. The members of the Bureau have given their absolute cooperation and made themselves fully available. I therefore thank the Vice-Chairs, Saad Abdullah Al Saad of Saudi Arabia, Narcisa Vlădulescu of Romania, and Maria Victoria González Román of Spain, and our Rapporteur, Saada Hassan of Djibouti, for their support. I might add that this is the first occasion on which the majority of the First Committee's Bureau is comprised of women.

On behalf of the Committee, I express my most sincere appreciation to the Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, headed by High Representative Angela Kane and Under-Secretary-General Tegegnework Gettu, respectively, for their support and dedicated staff, who facilitated our work in every possible way.

I cannot fail to say a special word of thanks to Mr. Ioan Tudor, Special Assistant to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, whose expertise on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues I have relied upon from the very outset of my involvement in the Committee. His willingness to share his knowledge, coupled with his graciousness and sheer goodnaturedness, have made him a delight for me to work with.

I would also like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Kenji Nakano and his excellent team at the First Committee secretariat. They are all arrayed behind me, to the left and to the right: Alexander, Jullyette, Dino, Lidija, Gerard, Victor, Tomas, Janet, Geoffrey and Ciyeon. I thank them for all their tireless and considerate efforts to support and facilitate our work throughout the session. Mr. Nakano's understated but self-assured and knowledgeable

presence was of great value and much appreciated. His unflappable, no-drama style is ideally suited to the requirements of the vital position he occupies.

Special thanks go to all the interpreters, translators, record-keepers, press officers, document officers, conference officers and sound engineers who have worked diligently behind the scenes in support of the Committee's work.

Allow me once again to thank my regional group, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, for having trusted me to chair the work of the First Committee and for their demonstration of unstinting support.

Let me conclude by wishing all those who are leaving New York a safe trip back home. I will end with a quote from former Secretary-General Kofi Anan:

“For the United Nations, there is no goal more overriding, no commitment more compelling, no aspiration more profound than the prevention of armed conflict. Ensuring human security, in the broadest sense, is the United Nations cardinal mission.”

The main part of the First Committee's work at the sixty-ninth session is thus concluded. The Committee will reconvene some time between May and June 2015 to elect its Chair and other members of the Bureau for the seventieth historic session.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*