

48/67. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/44 of 9 December 1992,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 substantive session,¹⁷ in particular on the work of Working Group III on agenda item 6, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields",¹⁸

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General of 28 September 1993 on scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security,¹⁹

Recognizing that science and technology *per se* are deemed to be neutral, that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that qualitative improvements in science and technology with military applications have implications for international security and that States, in this regard, should assess carefully the impact of the use of science and technology on international security,

Recognizing also that progress in the application of science and technology contributes substantially to the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements, *inter alia*, in the fields of weapons disposal, military conversion and verification,

Recalling that norms and guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing that commitment to, and the fulfilment of, comprehensive and balanced objectives of non-proliferation in all its aspects pertaining to the acquisition or transfer of high technology relevant to weapons of mass destruction are essential for the maintenance of international security and international cooperation and for the promotion of transfers of such technology for peaceful purposes,

Noting the interest of the international community in cooperation in the fields of disarmament-related science and technology and the transfer of high technology with military applications,

Mindful that international cooperation should be encouraged with respect to the production of disarmament-related technical equipment with the purpose, *inter alia*, of reducing the costs of implementing arms limitation and disarmament agreements,

1. *Calls upon* the Disarmament Commission to conclude its work on the agenda item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" in 1994 and to submit as soon as

possible specific recommendations on this matter to the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to pursue constructively, in response to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, its work on the agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments", which includes consideration of the elaboration of practical means to increase openness and transparency related to the transfer of high technology with military applications;

3. *Invites* Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

4. *Also invites* Member States to widen multilateral dialogue, bearing in mind the proposal for seeking universally acceptable norms or guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

*81st plenary meeting
16 December 1993*

48/68. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987, 43/81 B of 7 December 1988, 45/65 of 4 December 1990 and 47/45 of 9 December 1992,

Stressing that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally recognized and that the issue of verification is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recognizing that the United Nations, in accordance with its role and responsibilities established under the Charter, can make a significant contribution in the field of verification, in particular of multilateral agreements, and taking into consideration its specific experience,

Affirming its continued support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission,²⁰

Noting that recent developments in international relations continue to underscore the importance of effective verification of existing and future agreements to limit or eliminate arms, and that some of these developments have significant effects on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, which require careful and ongoing examination,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General²¹ pursuant to the statement of 31 January 1992 adopted at the conclusion of the first meeting held by the Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government,²²

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the occasion of Disarmament Week,²³

Welcoming the final report, adopted by consensus, of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts open to all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, submitted in accordance with its mandate to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,¹³

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,²⁴ which contains an unprecedented regime of verification, and the ongoing work to bring this Convention into force,

Recalling that in its resolution 47/45 it requested the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 1990 study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification²⁵ and in view of significant developments in international relations since that study, to seek the views of Member States on:

(a) Additional actions that might be taken to implement the recommendations contained in the study;

(b) How the verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements could facilitate United Nations activities with respect to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building;

(c) Additional actions with respect to the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, including further studies by the United Nations on this subject;

and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the subject,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the views of Member States;²⁶

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a further follow-up to the study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification and in view of significant developments in international relations since that study, to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study that would:

(a) Examine the lessons from recent United Nations verification experiences, as well as other relevant international developments, for future activities by the United Nations and by the Conference on Disarmament in the field of verification in all its aspects, taking into consideration its specific experience, and with particular attention to the ways verification can facilitate United Nations activities with respect to confidence-building and conflict management and disarmament;

(b) Explore the further development of guidelines and principles for the involvement of the United Nations in verification;

(c) Review the conclusions of the 1990 study group with particular attention to the ways that the United Nations might facilitate verification through relevant procedures, processes and bodies for acquiring, integrating and analysing verification information from a variety of sources;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

*81st plenary meeting
16 December 1993*

48/69. Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/106 of 15 December 1989, 45/50 of 4 December 1990, 46/28 of 6 December 1991 and 47/46 of 9 December 1992,

Reiterating its conviction that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is the highest-priority measure for the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and for the achievement of the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the central role of the United Nations in the field of nuclear disarmament and in particular in the cessation of all nuclear-test explosions, as well as the persistent efforts of non-governmental organizations in the achievement of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Conscious of the growing environmental concerns throughout the world and of the past and potential negative effects of nuclear testing on the environment,

Recalling its resolution 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, in which it noted with approval the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water,²⁷ signed on 5 August 1963, and requested the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament²⁸ to continue with a sense of urgency its negotiations to achieve the objectives set forth in the preamble to the Treaty,

Recalling also that more than one third of the parties to the Treaty requested the depositary Governments to convene a conference to consider an amendment that would convert the Treaty into a comprehensive test-ban treaty,

Recalling further that a substantive session of the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water was held in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991,

Reiterating its conviction that the Amendment Conference will facilitate the attainment of the objectives set forth in the Treaty and thus serve to strengthen it,