



# General Assembly

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### Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

## Current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts

### Report of the Secretary-General

### Addendum\*\*

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\* A/74/150.

\*\* The information contained in the present addendum was omitted in error from the main report.



## II. Replies received from Governments

### Egypt

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[9 May 2019]

Ongoing developments in the fields of science and technology present enormous opportunities to improve people's day-to-day living standards and to nurture prosperity and development in general. By the same token, those very advances have the potential to threaten world peace and security should they be employed for non-peaceful, illegitimate purposes through military and security uses. The Arab Republic of Egypt therefore stresses the need to encourage the advancement of science and technology for civilian use and ensure that it serves the goals of sustainable development. Of equal importance is the need to boost the exchange of technology for peaceful uses in accordance with international obligations. States have the right to develop, produce, transfer and employ technology for legitimate uses free of restrictions born of subjective considerations or political or ideological positions that have an adverse impact on the needs of developing countries. Countries are entitled to access to technology without discrimination and in conformity with legally binding international mechanisms.

Egypt calls on all States Members of the United Nations to abide by commitments concerning arms control and the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction. It underlines the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which remains the central pillar of the international non-proliferation and arms control regime. The principal aim of that regime is to achieve the total and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. The possession by certain countries of those types of weapons constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules of international law, the intentions of the international disarmament regime and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular with regard to the equal sovereignty of States. That is not to mention the risk that such possession poses of such weapons falling into the hands of non-State actors for use in the pursuit of terrorist goals.

Egypt encourages international and regional organizations and bodies to keep abreast of scientific and technological development and urges Member States to take into account technical advances that could have an adverse effect on international peace and security. Cooperation with industrial and scientific research experts and the international community is of the utmost importance in curbing such negative effects.

It is important to bear in mind the provisions of article 36 of the Protocol additional of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, pursuant to which all States studying, developing or producing new types of weapons are obliged to ensure that their use would not be prohibited under the provisions of international humanitarian law as a whole. Egypt thus calls on all States Members of the United Nations to refrain from developing or deploying any weapons, such as nuclear weapons, that are indiscriminate in nature or could cause indiscriminate harm to civilians. Moreover, new types of autonomous weapons systems are emerging that make it difficult to apply the principles of responsibility and accountability where indiscriminate damage results from the absence of the human factor in their use. For that reason, all areas of artificial intelligence must be under human control, whether at the design, development, testing or operational stages. Egypt supports international efforts to arrive at a precise definition of lethal weapons and what constitutes human control over them in order to determine to what extent they conform with the provisions of international humanitarian law and other relevant legislation.

Given the new trends in the military uses of science and technology, such as cybercrime, Egypt supports the idea of a binding legal instrument to set out clear criteria for responsible behaviour by States in the information space and to strengthen confidence-building measures and capacity-building in that regard. The arms race in outer space is another source of concern, and Egypt reaffirms the peaceful nature of outer space and the importance of using it only for peaceful purposes.

Lastly, advances in science and technology provide a key impetus for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and prosperity for all the world's peoples. All countries therefore have the right to possess and develop technology for social and economic purposes. Concerns about the proliferation of weapons must in no way serve as a pretext for depriving countries of their right to acquire dual-use technology, provided that all the appropriate guarantees are in place to ensure that it is not used for illegitimate military purposes.

## Ukraine

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Ukraine, as a member of all multilateral export control regimes, implements their decisions into its national legislation, including amendments to the control lists of goods developed to keep pace with international and regional security developments, advances in technology and market trends.

On 11 January 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Single List of dual-use goods.

According to Act of Ukraine No. 549-IV of 2003 on State control of international transfers of military and dual-use goods, Ukraine controls intangible technology transfers as release of technology which takes the form of technical data or technical assistance. It is considered that such release could take place by any electronic means (email, fax, telephone, etc.).

Controls do not apply to technology in the public domain, basic scientific research or the minimum necessary information for patent applications.