



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 96

## Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. María del Rosario Estrada Girón (Guatemala)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament” and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 6 October 2020, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in two phases: the first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 94 to 110, and the second phase would be action on all draft proposals. In the absence of thematic discussions, the Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects.

3. At its 2nd to 10th meetings, on 9 and 12, from 14 to 16 and on 19 October, the Committee held a general debate, during which draft resolutions and decisions were introduced. On 13, 26 and 30 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, and independent experts and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 11th to 15th meetings, on 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 November.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/75/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.14](#) and [A/C.1/75/PV.15](#), as well as [A/C.1/75/INF/5](#).



4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/75/27).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/75/L.7

5. On 5 October, the delegation of Belarus, on behalf of Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/75/L.7). Subsequently, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 15th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/75/L.7 by a recorded vote of 170 to 3 (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Ukraine, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

None.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, the delegation of Myanmar informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

### III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999, 57/50 of 22 November 2002, 60/46 of 8 December 2005, 63/36 of 2 December 2008, 66/21 of 2 December 2011, 69/27 of 2 December 2014 and 72/23 of 4 December 2017 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

*Recalling further* paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

*Determined* to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the discussions which have been held in the Conference on Disarmament under the item entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons”,<sup>3</sup>

*Noting* the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

<sup>1</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

<sup>2</sup> The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1 and S/C.3/32/Rev.1/Corr.1).

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/65/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/66/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/67/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/68/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/69/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/70/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/71/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/72/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; *ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/73/27)*, chap. III, sect. E; and *ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/74/27)*, chap. III, sect. E.

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

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