

Introduction of the resolution "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" in the First Committee of 61st UNGA

Statement by India
October 20, 2006

Madame Chairperson,

On behalf of the co-sponsors, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "the role of science and technology in the context of international peace and security."

Continuing advances in information technology, advance materials, life sciences and space applications since the resolution was first placed before the First Committee in 1989 offer promising opportunities to all countries. Access to these technologies is particularly crucial for the social and economic development of developing countries.

The co-sponsors recognise the dual-use character of many of the advances in science and technology. The potential for their use, both for civilian and military applications, is a legitimate cause of concern. However, discriminatory regimes deny access to these technologies to the developing countries even for peaceful, developmental purposes.

The co-sponsors have consistently maintained that the multilaterally negotiated and non-discriminatory agreements, which are transparent and open to universal participation, would be the best way to address proliferation concerns. The Final Document adopted at the Non-aligned Movement's Havana Summit last month also reflected this approach.

We need to develop, even more than ever before, an effective, inclusive and transparent system of export control over technologies and materials that would achieve the objectives of non-proliferation in all its aspects while ensuring, at the same time, access to these technologies for peaceful applications. This resolution hopes to encourage and support such a process.

Madame Chairperson,

India, along with the co-sponsors, hopes that this resolution will receive the widest possible support.

I thank you.