

Statement by Shri Hamid Ali Rao, Ambassador and PR to the CD;
Introduction of draft decision on "Role of science and technology in the context
of international security and disarmament"
22 October 2008

Mr. Chairman,

India associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM during this thematic debate.

I have the honor to introduce the draft decision, A/C.1/63/L33, which proposes the inclusion of item titled: "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" in the provisional agenda for the sixty fourth General Assembly.

It is evident that scientific and technological progress and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted for the economic and social development of all States. There is a need for developing countries to have access to scientific developments and new technologies for developmental purposes and for active participation in global trade.

It is also evident that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications. Concerns have been expressed that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of advanced weapons systems and, in particular, weapons of mass destruction. There is need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament particularly when they give rise to proliferation concerns.

Progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged and shared as widely as possible. There is need to regulate international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied.

There is need for dialogue and cooperation amongst Member states. India will consult as widely as possible to find a viable forward looking approach taking into account globalization trends, and possible future directions.

While India has not tabled a resolution this year, it feels that there is merit in retaining this item on the Agenda of the sixty fourth UNGA. We hope that the First Committee will endorse this draft decision.