

**United Nations General Assembly  
Sixtieth session  
First Committee  
Agenda Item 87**

“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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Statement by

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The delegation of Belarus has the honour to introduce the 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” (to be distributed as document A/C.1/60/L.10).

This draft resolution is co-sponsored by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The delegation of Belarus welcomes and appreciates the show of support for this important document on the part of current and future co-sponsors.

The draft resolution continues the tradition of resolutions first initiated by Belarus under this agenda item thirty years ago<sup>1</sup>. In its current form the draft resolution exists since 1996. Compared to the preceding General Assembly resolution 57/50 the current draft resolution contains technical amendments in the second preamble paragraph and in the operative paragraphs four and six.

For many years Belarus devoted special attention to prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction. This interest is not accidental.

Ravaged throughout its history by a multitude of devastating wars, Belarus has always been a staunch advocate of peace and a worker for peace. The first country in the world to renounce voluntarily the possession of operational nuclear weapons it had, Belarus continues to be a committed – *albeit* somewhat lonely – proponent of the idea of a nuclear arms-free space in Eastern and Central Europe. For almost twenty years now – along with the Russian Federation and Ukraine – we have been bearing the deadly burden of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

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<sup>1</sup> resolutions 3479 of 11 December 1975, 31/74 of 10 December 1976, 32/84 of 12 December 1977, 33/66B of 14 December 1978, 34/79 of 11 December 1979, 35/149 of 12 December 1980, 36/89 of 9 December 1981, 37/77A of 9 December 1982, 38/182 of 20 December 1983, 39/62 of 12 December 1984, 40/90 of 12 December 1985, 41/56 of 3 December 1986, 42/35 of 30 November 1987, 43/72 of 7 December 1988, 45/66 of 4 December 1990, 48/61 of 16 December 1993, 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999 and 57/50 of 22 November 2002

The strengthening of international peace and stability, reduction of stockpiles of conventional weapons and **curbing the threat of weapons of mass destruction in all its forms – currently existing and theoretically possible in the future** – these notions were never abstract for the people of Belarus and of like-minded countries.

We always believed that efforts to eliminate existing weapons of mass destruction and to prevent the development of their new types should be made in parallel.

New types of weapons of mass destruction apart from their direct destructive effects could create new and very serious dangers. By creating an illusion of military supremacy they could tempt the powers-that-be to use them and this in turn might lead to the actual use of nuclear weapons.

After the end of the Cold War the international community has agreed on the necessity to rule out the possibility of developing and manufacturing the new types of weapons of mass destruction. **Since 1990 the resolutions on this item were adopted by the General Assembly without a vote.**

The international community has agreed to refrain completely from the use of scientific and technological discoveries in order to produce new means of mass destruction.

We believe that the only adequate way to remove the threat of inclusion of new types of weapons of mass destruction in the arsenals of states or non-state actors, including terrorists, is to create a machinery to initiate prompt multilateral response in order to prohibit such types of weapons as soon as the risk of their appearance becomes imminent.

The draft stipulates a specific procedure built in the existing disarmament mechanism to monitor the situation and trigger international action were such required.

An important aspect of this resolution is its unequivocal stress on the relevance and importance of the Conference on Disarmament in addressing the problems of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We heed the pondering of some Member States on the topicality of the continued focus of the international community on this problem. Yet the delegation of Belarus insists that this problem and the draft resolution which puts it in the limelight remain just as relevant and topical as they were thirty years ago. This vital organisational safeguard is the least the international community can do to keep this problem in responsible check.

We call upon all Member States to consider this draft in a positive way and look forward to the traditional adoption of this resolution without a vote.