

**Explanatory Note on Proposed UNGA First Committee 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”**

History

This draft resolution continues the tradition of resolutions presented under this agenda item by the Republic of Belarus and adopted at triennial intervals at the 51st, 54th and 57th sessions of the General Assembly (51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999 and 57/50 of 22 November 2002).

In all cases the resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly without a vote.

Changes

This year's resolution preserves continuity with the preceding General Assembly resolution 57/50 and contains exclusively technical amendments in the second paragraph of the preamble and in the operative paragraphs 4 and 6.

Substance

The rationale behind this resolution is an ever topical need to prevent the development and manufacture of **new types** of weapons of mass destruction. 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 continued relevance and importance of the Conference on Disarmament in addressing the problems of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The draft resolution creates a necessary framework for bringing matters related to new types of weapons of mass destruction to the attention of all Member States and thus makes a modest contribution to our common onerous work of revitalising the Conference of Disarmament and the General Assembly.

Further action

The draft resolution will be registered with the secretariat and officially introduced in the First Committee in the next few days. The next round of consultations on the draft on Wednesday, 19th of October.

Coordinator of work on the draft resolution is Mr Andrei Metelitsa, Belarusian delegate in the First Committee (cell: (646) 401-1877, e-mail: andrei_metelitsa@hotmail.com).