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Statement by First Secretary Pratibha Parkar of the Indian Delegation
to introduce Draft Decision L 44 on
Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security
(Cluster on: Other disarmament measures and international security)

Mr. Chairman, the international community has recognized that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged. India is fully aware of the dynamic nature of scientific and technological developments and their impact in a globalised environment on international security, non-proliferation and disarmament. These developments also have a wide ranging impact on related areas of human security- economic growth, trade and development, food security, information security, disease prevention and cure, energy security and protection of the environment.

2. As a developing country, we are also aware that science and technology is of vital importance for fulfilling the development aspirations of developing countries, which need access to scientific developments and new technologies. International cooperation in the use of Science & Technology for peaceful purposes including transfer and exchange of technology is therefore essential.

3. Science & Technology can also contribute to verification of relevant disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. At the same time the international community should follow closely scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament.

4. International transfer of sensitive technologies and high technology with military applications should be effectively regulated, keeping in mind legitimate defense requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls of the appropriate standards in this field should be strengthened and effectively implemented. Relevant international agreements in this field should be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of state parties to those agreements.

5. For all the above reasons, the Role of Science & Technology in the context of international security and disarmament is an important and dynamic subject that affects the interests of all. There is thus need for dialogue and cooperation among member-states to find a viable forward looking approach taking into account current trends and possible future directions.

6. My delegation has, therefore, tabled a draft decision L 44 entitled "Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament" to be included in the agenda of the 67th Session of the UNGA. We hope that the First Committee will endorse it as in previous years.

Thank you.