United Nations General Assembly
57th session
First Committee

STATEMENT
by representative of the Republic of Belarus V. RYBAKOV
to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.5
"Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of
weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons"
under agenda item 58
"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"

New York
15 October, 2002
Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus has submitted for the consideration of the First Committee draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.5 under agenda item 58, “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”. The delegation of the Republic of Belarus has the honor to inform you, Mr. Chairman, and all delegations that this draft resolution is cosponsored, in alphabetical order, by Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The draft resolution proposes to use the Conference on Disarmament as the main body for considering this issue. The adoption of the draft resolution will not involve any financial implications. The draft contains a reference to all previous General Assembly resolutions on the question of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. The draft also takes note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and emphasizes the determination of Member States to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nation in 1948.

In the operative part of the draft resolution there is reaffirmation of the need for effective measures to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction. The General Assembly further requests the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons. All States are called upon to give favorable consideration to those recommendations, immediately following their submission. The General Assembly further requests the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “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”.

Mr. Chairman,

Similar resolution was adopted in 1996 and 1999, both times without a vote. The Republic of Belarus hopes...