

UNGA77 First Committee -
Cluster 5 – Other Disarmament Measures
Explanations of Vote
CANADA

L.66 - Strengthening and developing the system of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation treaties and agreements

L.56 - Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the context of International Security

L.23 Rev.1 - Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Mr. Chair,

I take the floor on the resolution put forward by the Russian Federation, entitled “Strengthening and developing the system of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation treaties and agreements.” Canada will vote yes on this resolution. We want to make clear that this vote in no way indicates support for Russia’s activities and tactics.

We will vote yes because we believe in the importance of a rules-based international order, and upholding the commitments of disarmament and arms control agreements. It is important, regardless of who proposes the language, to focus our energy as an international community on doing everything we can to ensure these agreements remain strong and relevant. Further, Russia’s insistence on abusing consensus procedures as evidenced at the NPT Review Conference earlier this year stands in direct contrast to the language in operative paragraph 8 of this resolution. Consensus is not a code word for veto, nor does it encourage hostage-taking of decisions and resolutions for narrow national interests.

If Russia wanted to strengthen these treaties and agreements, it would end its illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine and comply with the rules and regulations that the vast majority of the international community follows.

Mr. Chair,

As for draft resolution L.56, entitled ‘Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the context of International Security’, Canada cannot support this and call on all States to vote against it.

This resolution contends that the existing system of Multilateral Export Control Regimes is inherently flawed and creates undue restrictions on the peaceful uses of nuclear, chemical and biological items and technologies. A key objective of effective export controls is to allow for the peaceful uses of sensitive items while ensuring that we meet our non-proliferation obligations. Canada sees no benefit in creating a new non-proliferation system within the UNGA framework in addition to the non-proliferation treaties and conventions that already exist as well as numerous relevant UNSC resolutions, fora and processes.

Mr. Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and my own country, Canada, collectively CANZ, to explain our countries' votes on resolution L.23 Rev.1, Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security presented by the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chair, CANZ countries believe in the importance of a free, open and secure cyberspace for all and have been actively engaged in the ongoing open-ended working group on ICTs. We were pleased that the group was able to adopt by consensus an interim report and welcome the decision brought forward by the Chair to endorse this report. CANZ members will continue to work constructively with all partners – in the spirit of cooperation, and in good faith, to take practical, concrete and meaningful action to enhance peace and stability in cyberspace.

While we, along with others, engaged constructively in the negotiations we regret that the spirit of cooperation, which resulted in a consensus resolution in 2021, was not replicated this year, and that significant and legitimate concerns of a large group member states were erroneously dismissed as politicisation. We remain concerned by resolution L.23 Rev1. presented by the Russian Federation as it appears to be intended to create division amongst member states. This resolution cherry picks language taken from other resolutions and contains controversial paragraphs that the sponsor knew several states could not accept. In this context, the sponsor could have taken agreed language from last year's resolution but chose not to do so.

Mr. Chair, we conclude that this resolution is deliberately divisive and undermines the OEWG and the progress made by all member states in that context. For these reasons CANZ countries will vote no on this resolution and no on PP2, PP4 and PP7.