Delegation from

Republic of Yemen

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. The Republic of Yemen is committed to the goals of the UN and looking forward to a close collaboration with all member states to find sustainable solutions.

The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

Ever since there a humans, emerging technologies played a crucial role for society. Self understanding emerging technologies also affects questions about conflict and security. With the ongoing civil- and anti-terror wars in Yemen technologies as pointed out by the General Assembly in 1990 are being used. One example therefore are the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). The USVs as part of asymmetric conflicts adopted quickly. Armed or not such technologies are more effective in warfare as conventional technologies. But there are reports that non-state actors like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL) trying harness emerging technologies for insistence the use of UAVs. In other situations untrustworthy rebel groups get armed with new technologies. The situation in conflict zones gets more dangerous and unpredictable if the danger of new high level technologies in the hands of non-state actors or terrorist- and rebel groups rises.

Since the General Assembly lifted the emerging technologies on the agenda in the year 1988, the Republic of Yemen supported the efforts taken by restricting dangerous technologies and investigating the possibilities of emerging technologies. The Republic highlights the UN Security Council (SC) resolution *2365* (2017) about mine action in general and recognizing the development of improvised explosive devices as danger for peacekeepers, returning refugees, civilians and military forces. Furthermore Yemen encourages pursuing on the General Assembly resolution *72/28* (2017) about the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, renewing the internal discussions on classification of several technologies. With special interests the delegation pursues the debate about the use of UAVs. On one side, the question about human rights violations by the use of armed UAVs following the UN study by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in 2015 and on the other side the possibilities for humanitarian purposes. Therefore, the working group of UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with the World Food Programs (WFP) is from special interest.

In order to archive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inter alia the SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and adopting the guidelines for technological developments regarding the commitment to humanitarian law, the Republic of Yemen seeks a closer cooperation between the UN organs among each other and with Non Government Organizations (NGOs). With respect to the previous work by the UNODA, the GA should strengthen their possibilities by providing more funding to intensify their research work. Regarding armed UAVs the UN have to adopt international framework based on further research. Furthermore, the delegation of Yemen seeks to intensify the experiments from the working group on humanitarian use of UAVs targeted to use the possibilities of emerging technologies soon in field operations by the UN.

Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

Under no circumstances, the important work of the UN system for the maintenance of peace and security and sustainable development should be undermined by abuse of power, fraud or corruption. Besides the integrity of the UN bodies and administration an important point is the effectiveness. With the ongoing digitalization critics about the UN spread faster and more unchecked. That's why the UN system has revealed as little space as

possible for critics by working effectively and establishing control systems. The UN always had high level performing mechanisms for evaluating accountability and transparency. There are internal and external systems. Even some sub-organizations like the UNODC keep evaluate their work. The Republic of Yemen appreciates the approach to improve already well working mechanisms.

The GA had adopted several resolutions to build an overarching mechanism for accountability. The Republic of Yemen highlights the establishment of UN Ethics Office by the GA resolution *60/248* (2006). Most important in the mandate of the Ethics Office is the handling of ethical dilemmas of UN staff members because providing a contact person prevents staff members from being solely responsible. In addition, the office protects mechanisms like whistleblowing. Another important mechanism is the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) installed in 1994 by the GA resolution 48/218B. By monitoring, inspections, and evaluation the OIOS plays a crucial role in the internal accountability process. The OIOS is giving reports and recommendations on a yearly basis.

Regarding the improvement of the transparency and accountability mechanisms the GA should focus setting clear process of observe and implement recommendations of the OIOS. With the question of ethical integrity covered up by the UN Ethics Office the UN furthermore could build up an internal evaluation system alongside the OIOS. This system should be similar to the UNODC evaluation system and give staff members more possibilities to bring forward critics and ideas for the improvement of the effective action in all UN bodies. The delegation of the Republic of Yemen is looking forward to fruitful discussions.

Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

Contrary to the SDG 5 woman have to face violence and inequality. Besides unequal education- and health access, women have economic disadvantages. As example globally, women are just 13 per cent of agricultural land holders. 1 of 3 women worldwide experienced sexual or physical violence once or several times. Violence against woman is defined as act of "gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women" by the World Health Organization (WHO). Even if there has been improvement many women suffering daily under violence. The civil- and anti-terror war in Yemen endangers the situation for woman. 3 million women are at risk of gender-based violence according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and 76 per cent of internally displaced persons are women and girls. In addition there are 350,000 pregnant Yemeni without secured access to medical help. The Republic of Yemen endorses all action taken to improve the situation of women.

On an international level the Republic of Yemen signed and ratified International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizing the equal right for man and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights. Yemen highly appreciating the work of UN-women organization established by the UN GA resolution *64/289* (2010), globally and despite the civil- and anti-terror war in Yemen. Besides the Republic supports the GA resolution *61/143* (2006) on "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women". Furthermore the delegation of Yemen likes to draw attention to the effectiveness of programs of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) in matters of empowering women and improve their socioeconomic status.

Priority should be given the field work of the UN programs, organizations and funds just like a close collaboration with NGOs. Besides measures focusing on education of girls and women, Yemen encourages the GA to intensify the engagement of the UNFAO prioritize on strengthening women. Member states like Yemen where the agricultural sector have high percentages of employment and GDP often have improvable situations for women. With more impact in the agricultural sector women lose dependence, improve their socioeconomic status and gaining better access to education health systems. To make sure the implantation of the stronger engagement works the GA should consider establishing gender-budgeting for its programs.