

The Netherlands has again voted in favour of draft resolution L.19, entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium".

The Netherlands is not against ongoing research on this subject and appreciates it being discussed in the forum of the United Nations.

However, we do feel that the basis for such research and discussions could have been formulated at this stage in a more neutral way, by speaking of "possible consequences" in stead of "potential hazards" or "potential harmful effects".

As we have stated in our submission to the report of the Secretary-General, to date the reference in the resolution to the "potential harmful affects of the use of depleted uranium munitions on human health and the environment" can not be supported by conclusive scientific evidence. A view which is shared by the WHO and the IAEA in the report of the Secretary-General.

We will closely monitor the outcome of ongoing and future research in this field and take any further developments into consideration, when this issue is taken up again during the 2012 session of the First Committee.