



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/373
8 December 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 42

EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSES
AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco CORREA (Mexico)

1. The item entitled:

"Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the
Disarmament Decade:

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session in accordance
with General Assembly resolution 31/68 of 10 December 1976.

2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on
the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its
agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 7th meeting, on 18 October, the First Committee decided to hold a
combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament,
namely items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53. The general debate on these items
took place at the 7th to 27th meetings, from 18 October to 7 November. 1/

4. In connexion with item 42, the First Committee had before it the following
documents:

1/ For an index to statements by delegations on disarmament items, see
A/32/383.

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; 2/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/32/270).

5. On 8 November, India, Nigeria, Romania and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/32/L.14), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, Finland, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Morocco, Sweden and Trinidad and Tobago. The draft resolution, which was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 29th meeting, on 10 November, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it declared the decade of the 1970s the Disarmament Decade and envisaged a link between the Disarmament Decade and the Second United Nations Development Decade,

"Also recalling its resolution 31/68 of 10 December 1976 in which it reaffirmed the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade, and its resolution 31/189 B of 21 December 1976 in which it decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

"Deploring that these purposes and objectives have not been fulfilled in terms of effective disarmament agreements and that the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, continues unabated,

"Deeply concerned at the continued wastage of resources on armaments and the consequent detrimental effect on international security and the achievement of the objectives of the New International Economic Order,

"Affirming the urgent need for the promotion of negotiations on effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, for the reduction of military expenditures and for general and complete disarmament,

"Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on disarmament 3/,

"1. Takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to set up an Ad Hoc Working Group to elaborate a comprehensive programme for disarmament;

"2. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue its work on this subject and to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its eighth special session;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/32/27).

3/ Ibid.

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

"4. Calls upon Member States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to intensify their efforts in support of the link between disarmament and development envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) on the Disarmament Decade, so as to promote disarmament negotiations and to ensure that the human and material resources freed by disarmament are used to promote economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled 'Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade'."

6. At the 30th meeting, on 11 November, Niger submitted amendments (A/C.1/32/L.22) to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.14. The amendments provided for:

(a) The insertion, after the fourth preambular paragraph, of three new paragraphs reading as follows:

"Reaffirming the incompatibility between the unbridled arms race and the will of the international community, proclaimed and repeatedly reaffirmed, to promote healthy economic co-operation among all States,

"Convinced that the peaceful use of the human and material resources allocated every year to the manufacture of armaments of all kinds will have very positive effects for the future of mankind,

"Believing that the aid made available to developing countries, in all its forms, will serve its purpose only in a healthy, peaceful atmosphere characterized by mutual respect,"

(b) The insertion, after paragraph 4, of a new paragraph reading as follows:

"Urges that the unparalleled technical possibilities now available to mankind should be exploited for the purposes of combating poverty, ignorance, disease and hunger throughout the world;"

and the renumbering of the existing paragraph 5 accordingly.

7. At its 35th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted the amendments contained in document A/C.1/32/L.22 (see para. 6 above) by a recorded vote of 96 to none, with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Empire, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Surinam, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, Finland, Guyana, India, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.14, as amended, by 121 votes to none (see para. 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it declared the decade of the 1970s the Disarmament Decade and envisaged a link between the Disarmament Decade and the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Also recalling its resolution 31/68 of 10 December 1976, in which it reaffirmed the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade, and its resolution 31/189 B of 21 December 1976 in which it decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Deploring that these purposes and objectives have not been fulfilled in terms of effective disarmament agreements and that the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, continues unabated,

Deeply concerned at the continued wastage of resources on armaments and the consequent detrimental effect on international security and the achievement of the objectives of the new international economic order,

Reaffirming the incompatibility between the unbridled arms race and the will of the international community, proclaimed and repeatedly reaffirmed, to promote healthy economic co-operation among all States,

Convinced that the peaceful use of the human and material resources allocated every year to the manufacture of armaments of all kinds will have very positive effects for the future of mankind,

Believing that the aid made available to developing countries, in all its forms, will serve its purpose only in a healthy, peaceful atmosphere characterized by mutual respect,

Affirming the urgent need for the promotion of negotiations on effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, for the reduction of military expenditures and for general and complete disarmament,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/

1. Takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to set up an ad hoc working group to elaborate a comprehensive programme for disarmament;
2. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue its work on this subject and to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in May/June 1978;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;
4. Calls upon Member States and the Secretary-General to intensify their efforts in support of the link between disarmament and development envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) on the Disarmament Decade, so as to promote disarmament negotiations and to ensure that the human and material resources freed by disarmament are used to promote economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries;
5. Urges that the unparalleled technical possibilities now available to mankind should be exploited for the purposes of combating poverty, ignorance, disease and hunger throughout the world;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade".
