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Chairman: Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

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CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: This morning, the First Committee will begin the third phase of its work, devoted to consideration of and action upon draft resolutions on disarmament agenda items.

Mr. GROOT (Denmark): A few days ago, the Chairman of the Group of Experts which assisted the Secretary-General in preparing the study on all aspects of the conventional arms race and on disarmament relating to conventional weapons and armed forces made a comprehensive statement in this Committee. It is not my intention to expand on that statement, to whose content my delegation, of course, fully subscribes.

I have asked to speak today in order to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/39/L.16, entitled "Study on conventional disarmament".

The study on conventional disarmament is annexed to the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/348), which has been transmitted to the General Assembly.

(Mr. Groot, Denmark)

The draft resolution invites all Member States to inform the Secretary-General, no later than 31 May 1985, of their views regarding the study. In the final paragraph of the study, the Group of Experts expresses the hope that the study will assist the international community in its search for effective measures of conventional arms limitations and disarmament.

By inviting all Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their views regarding the study, it is the hope of my Government that such views, together with the study, will constitute a useful basis for continued endeavours towards our goal, namely, effective measures of conventional arms limitation and disarmament.

I want to emphasize as strongly as I can that the question of conventional disarmament in no way - I repeat - in no way detracts from the paramount importance that must be given to the question of nuclear disarmament. The most acute and urgent task of the present day is to reduce and remove the threat of nuclear war. The elimination of the threat of all armed conflicts remains the ultimate goal of the international community. Hence the importance of conventional disarmament.

The study was adopted by consensus and no reservations were expressed. It is the hope of my delegation that the First Committee will also adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Mr. NOETZEL (German Democratic Republic): On behalf of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic I am introducing today draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.9 under agenda item 59 (g) entitled "Obligation of States to contribute to effective disarmament negotiations", which was submitted on 1 November.

The draft resolution introduced this year is based on a similar resolution submitted last year. This reflects the continuing and deep interest of my delegation in the fundamental subject of serious and productive disarmament negotiations held in good faith. Today we believe it is more than ever necessary to share views on this issue in order to achieve progress on the most pressing task of our time: the prevention of nuclear war and bringing about practical measures for the cessation of the arms race and for disarmament, particularly in the nuclear field.

For this reason, the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution refer, in particular, to the growing threat of nuclear war, which can lead to the destruction of civilization on Earth; and the need to proceed to honest, business-like and constructive negotiations in good faith aimed at the achievement of early results,

(Mr. Noetzel, German Democratic Republic)

in particular the prevention of nuclear war. It also expresses concern about attempts at using disarmament negotiations as a smokescreen for continuing the arms race.

The situation in the field of disarmament negotiations certainly is far from encouraging. Concern is expressed everywhere at this state of affairs. We share the view expressed by many delegations as to the reasons and responsibilities for that situation.

In this context, it seems appropriate to refer to the report of the Conference on Disarmament, which says:

"... since nuclear war would have catastrophic consequences for the whole of mankind, all nations [have] a vital interest in urgent negotiation of appropriate and practical measures for the prevention of nuclear war."

(A/39/27, para. 80)

The most important conclusion my delegation draws from the lively debate which has taken place in the Committee on this particular subject is that words must be matched by deeds, that clear signals must be given to substantiate the declared readiness for negotiations, particularly as regards the priority items of the Conference on Disarmament.

For this reason, operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution submitted by the German Democratic Republic calls for negotiations to be held in the spirit of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, that is, serious negotiations in good faith on the basis of equality, reciprocity and the undiminished security of each side.

At the same time - and this we believe is a most important element - it contains an appeal to refrain from any actions which have or may have negative effects on the outcome of disarmament negotiations and to remove obstacles which stand in the way of such negotiations.

In another substantive paragraph the Conference on Disarmament is urged to start negotiations on agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 5 concerning the nuclear issues and outer space and to intensify negotiations on agenda item 4 concerning the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Finally, I should like to direct attention to operative paragraph 6, which underlines the need for preserving the existing system of bilateral, regional and global arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

(Mr. Noetzel, German Democratic Republic)

The delegation of the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that the basic concern of this draft resolution will be shared by member States. I should also like to inform the Committee that, as they did last year, talks are going on with the representative of Yugoslavia with a view to combining draft resolutions A/C.1/39/L.9 and A/C.1/39/L.58.

Mr. MEISZTER (Hungary): On behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Hungary, I have the honour to introduce - and I do so with pleasure - draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.18 entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/72 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests".

During the debate in the General Assembly and the general discussion in the First Committee the overwhelming majority of delegations made it clear that the prevention of nuclear war and the halting of the nuclear-arms race constitute an absolute priority in their foreign policies and that they regard the immediate cessation and prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests as a major step in this direction. At this juncture, my delegation does not want to dwell on the importance of this issue, as we have done so in ample detail and, it seems to me, in a convincing manner, in our statements in both the General Assembly and the First Committee.

(Mr. Meiszter, Hungary)

Suffice it to say that a number of delegations were prompted, by a full awareness of the importance of such a step, to submit at the last session of the General Assembly a similar resolution (38/72), which was adopted by the vast majority of the States Members of the United Nations.

On the basis of that resolution and for the purpose of implementing its provisions, the socialist States members of the Conference on Disarmament, proposed, at the last session of the Conference on Disarmament, the establishment of an ad hoc Committee of the Conference to carry out practical negotiations with a view to elaborating a corresponding treaty. A similar position was taken by the developing countries members of the Conference on Disarmament. Unfortunately, regardless of the wish of the great majority of States members of the Conference, the Conference on Disarmament was prevented from starting negotiations on a treaty on a complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

The timeliness of the task, as well as the profound conviction that the two draft treaties - in documents CD/346 and CD/381 - submitted at the Conference on Disarmament in 1983, then the Committee on Disarmament, together with the knowledge and experience accumulated in the multilateral negotiating body over the years, could serve as a sound basis for negotiations and eventual agreement on the subject. That awareness prompted the Member States enumerated before to submit the draft resolution I am introducing now.

The draft resolution before us is based on these main assumptions. Its preambular part reflects, in a very concise form, the concern felt over the intensification of the nuclear-arms race and the conviction that a nuclear-weapon-test ban would constitute an indispensable element in halting it. In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly resolutely urges all States to exert maximum efforts and to exercise political will for the elaboration and conclusion of a multilateral treaty on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests by all States, while in operative paragraph 2, it urges the Conference on Disarmament to proceed promptly to negotiations with a view to elaborating such a treaty. It is underscored once again that all existing proposals and future initiatives must be taken into account. The Conference on Disarmament is further advised to treat this subject as a matter of the highest priority and to establish an ad hoc committee with a negotiating mandate to deal effectively with this issue.

It is our impression that the said proposals duly reflect the feeling and wish of the great majority of delegations in the First Committee. Therefore, I should

(Mr. Meiszter, Hungary)

like to express the hope of the co-sponsors that this draft resolution will be given favourable consideration by the Committee and will command the widest possible support.

Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia): May I be permitted to introduce, on behalf of the delegations of Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden, draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.68, concerning radiological weapons. I introduce this draft in my capacity as this year's Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament dealing with this problem. The sponsors of the draft are countries which provided the chairmen of the Radiological Weapons Committee during the last three years. I already pointed out in my statement in the debate on the performance of the Conference on Disarmament this year that fairly good attention was paid to this issue. I may even say that the Conference on Disarmament succeeded in revitalizing interest in making real progress in dealing with it. Interesting suggestions have been forwarded, some in written form and even in the form of a draft document. Nevertheless, the mandate of the Committee has not yet been fulfilled. The draft resolution in document A/C.1/39/L.68 proposes, therefore, that the Conference on Disarmament should again establish, at the beginning of its deliberations next year, an ad hoc committee on radiological weapons.

It is requested that the Conference on Disarmament should continue its deliberations on that problem, with a view "to a prompt conclusion of its work, taking into account all proposals presented to the Conference to this end ..."

In this connection I should like to underline that the draft resolution demands a "prompt conclusion", thus reflecting the positions of many delegations which do not wish the problem of radiological weapons to become another routine item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, on which resolutions would be adopted in the First Committee, while the substance of the problems would remain unsolved and the work on it in the Conference on Disarmament will be purely formal.

May I express the hope that this draft resolution will gain the support of all the members of the First Committee.

Now, I would like, on behalf of the group of co-sponsors, including the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Syria, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Viet Nam and, of course, Czechoslovakia, to

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

introduce a draft resolution on international co-operation for disarmament which is contained in document A/C.1/39/L.53.

In the present complicated period of the development of international relations, it becomes increasingly important that the conclusion contained in the Final Document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament be appropriately implemented. Consequently, a more and more significant role is also being played by the United Nations Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament, adopted in 1979, as a result of an initiative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, since the primary purpose of the Declaration was to promote the implementation of the conclusions of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The draft resolution presented by the Czechoslovak delegation, together with others which I named, aims at recalling this fact and demonstrating the continued topicality of the Declaration and also at advancing and updating the ideas embodied in the document with a view to the relevant resolutions adopted at the thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly.

The draft resolution calls attention to the growing danger of the outbreak of a nuclear war, to the continued nuclear-arms race and to the menace that a new round of the arms race may be launched at a level unprecedented in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Emphasis is put on the necessity of having international co-operation for disarmament become instrumental in averting nuclear war through the gradual reduction and limitation of nuclear weapons up to their complete liquidation, on the basis of the principle of mutual security. The draft reflects the firm conviction that effective international co-operation for disarmament requires that the policy of States, primarily those possessing nuclear weapons, be concentrated on the prevention of a nuclear war.

As the central idea of the draft resolution is already expressed in its title, I am not going to elaborate on individual paragraphs of the draft. I should only like to point out that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that concrete results may be achieved in the field of disarmament only through negotiations conducted in a constructive manner and on the basis of the principle of equality and, as I have already stated, the undiminished security of all parties. We wish therefore to voice our conviction that the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States will reiterate their support for the idea of developing and strengthening international co-operation for disarmament.

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

The last draft resolution I should like to introduce today, on behalf of Czechoslovakia and Cuba, is the draft resolution on the contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament, contained in document A/C.1/39/L.34.

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

This draft is a direct follow-up to resolution 38/188 J, adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. I should therefore like to draw attention to its principal orientation. One of the ways of improving the efficiency of the international machinery would be a full utilization of the possibilities offered by the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system with regard to studies and information on disarmament.

Each specialized agency and institution has its own priorities and purposes, which have a significant impact on various aspects of disarmament. The integration of these agencies and organizations, individually or collectively, into the disarmament efforts is therefore of considerable importance in increasing the efficiency of the United Nations, promoting the main goals of the Organization, primarily the safeguarding of peace and security, as well as encouraging economic and social development.

In view of the various activities carried out by United Nations agencies and organizations in implementation of resolution 38/188 J, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report A/39/544, the extensive activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes within the World Disarmament Campaign and during Disarmament Week, which are described in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/39/492 and A/39/493), and considering also the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-fourth session (A/39/38), the resolution recommends that the programme of periodical meetings of the Secretary-General with the directors of the specialized agencies include the establishment of a plan designed to co-ordinate the activities of specialized agencies in the field of disarmament, requesting the Secretary-General to submit at the forty-first session of the General Assembly a report on the implementation of this resolution, including information on the relevant activities of specialized agencies and other institutions and programmes within the United Nations system.

It is clear that each specialized agency and international organization has its own programme related to the main field of its activity. The present resolution does not affect these fields. Nevertheless, these organizations can use the results of their specialized activities to contribute to a broader and deeper

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

understanding of the possible consequences of war, particularly nuclear war, of the necessity for disarmament as well as of the avenues leading to the solution of the problem.

We wish therefore to voice our conviction that the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States will reaffirm their support of the idea and will support the resolution I introduced.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on representative of Sri Lanka in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the World Disarmament Conference.

Mr. WIJEWARDANE (Sri Lanka): I am privileged to introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The report contained in document A/39/28 has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/186 and covers the Committee's activities during its two sessions in 1984.

As in previous years, the report consists of three chapters and in addition to an introductory part, consists also of a chapter on the work of the Committee and another on conclusions and recommendations. Chapter II, in addition to a procedural part, incorporates the position of the nuclear-weapon States in updated form presented to the Committee in the course of the close contacts maintained through its Chairman with the representatives of those States, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 38/186.

In chapter III, entitled "Conclusions and recommendations", the Ad Hoc Committee states, inter alia, that:

"Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, the General Assembly should take up the question at its thirty-ninth regular session for further consideration, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 36/91, adopted by consensus, in particular paragraph 1 of that resolution, and resolution 38/186, also adopted by consensus." (A/39/28, para. 14)

In the same chapter, the Committee recommends that:

"The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee."

(A/39/28, para. 15)

I wish to take this opportunity to convey the Committee's highest appreciation to the Rapporteur, Mr. Laclaustra, to the members of the Working Group, as well as to those who participated in its work, for their invaluable co-operation and assistance in fulfilling the task entrusted to them.

I would also like to introduce, on behalf of Burundi, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sri Lanka, the draft resolution entitled "World Disarmament Conference", contained in document A/C.1/39/L.23. The draft resolution which is now before the Committee is similar to that adopted by consensus last year. Minor changes have been incorporated in its operative paragraph 1. These reflect the conclusions and and recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which I have already introduced.

In accordance with its operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly would once again renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The General Assembly would also request the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of States possessing nuclear weapons, in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly.

Let me express the hope, on behalf of all the sponsors, that as in previous years, the Committee will adopt the draft resolution by consensus. Our hope is based on the fact that the idea of a world disarmament conference enjoys considerable support among the Members of the United Nations. The sponsors are, of course, well aware of the varying degrees of emphasis and nuances of opinion concerning conditions and certain aspects related to the question of the convening of such a conference. We must admit that, as reflected in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, no consensus has yet been reached on the convening of a conference under the present conditions. However, it appears to be a prevailing feeling among the international community that a world disarmament conference, adequately prepared and convened at an appropriate time, could be one useful forum that would work out ways and means leading towards a noble objective of mankind, which is the achievement of genuine and complete disarmament.

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

May I take this opportunity to thank Mr. S. W. Arthur de Silva, my predecessor as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, for his dedication and diligence in fulfilling the task entrusted to him by the members of the Committee.

I would like also to thank all the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their invaluable contribution to the fulfilment of the mandate given to them by the General Assembly and for the prevailing spirit of co-operation shown during the 1984 sessions.

May I also express my gratitude to the Secretary of the Committee and his colleagues for their valuable assistance.

I would, once again, like to recommend the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/39/L.23 for adoption by consensus.

Mr. ANDERSSON (Sweden): I have asked to speak to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/39/L.38 dated 9 November 1984 and entitled "Military research and development".

The military use of research and development is an important factor in the modernization process fuelling the arms race. In the current arms competition, qualitative improvement is the dominant objective. New scientific discoveries and technological advances are rapidly assimilated into new weapons systems. Today's research and development projects become tomorrow's ever more sophisticated weapons.

Together with a number of other countries Sweden introduced the proposal for a United Nations study of the military use of research and development in 1982. One of the reasons behind that proposal was to draw attention to the intensity of the qualitative arms race and its destabilizing effects for international peace and security. Through a United Nations study it would be possible to look into the fundamental questions of the causes of the qualitative arms race and the mechanisms involved in its continuous escalation.

Since that proposal was made the situation has not improved but has become even more serious. Vast resources are devoted to the development of new weapons systems, nuclear as well as conventional. Increasing efforts are made in the field of outer space.

The need to ask and to answer the basic questions has acquired added importance and urgency. The task of promoting a better understanding of the role of military research and development in the qualitative arms race must be seen as a continuing long-term concern of the United Nations.

The General Assembly decided in its resolution 37/99 J of 13 December 1982 that a comprehensive study should be carried out on the scope, role and direction of the military use of research and development. The Assembly felt that the study should cover the mechanisms involved and the role of military research and development in the overall arms race. In this context, special emphasis was put on the nuclear-arms race and its impact on arms limitation and disarmament, particularly in relation to major weapons systems, such as nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, the study was to be carried out with a view to preventing a qualitative arms race and to ensuring that scientific and technological achievements might ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes.

(Mr. Andersson, Sweden)

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to carry out the study with the assistance of qualified governmental experts. The Secretary-General appointed a Group of Experts in early 1983, and it began its work in March of that year. Since then it has held five substantive sessions, in 1983 and 1984.

In a letter to the Secretary-General contained in document A/39/525 the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts on Military Research and Development informed the Secretary-General that the Group had made substantial progress in the preparation of its report, but that certain issues remained to be resolved. After consultations with the experts, the Chairman had concluded that an extension of the Group's mandate could enable it to resolve those issues and to submit its final report in time for the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

What is envisaged is not a review of the entire draft report but an effort to resolve certain differences of opinion in a manner acceptable to all. In order to make this possible, my delegation has submitted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.38, which requests the Secretary-General to continue the study and to submit the final report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

In introducing this draft resolution I should like to express the hope that the Committee will find no difficulty in supporting it in order to give the Group of Governmental Experts on Military Research and Development the time needed to complete its work. I therefore respectfully commend this draft resolution for adoption by the Committee at the appropriate time, without a vote.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.22, which I have the honour to submit to the First Committee, is sponsored by India, Pakistan, Sweden, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Mexico.

Appropriately, the draft resolution begins by placing the theme of "Nuclear Winter" in its proper context, recalling the declaration of the General Assembly in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, when it referred specifically to "the threat to the very survival of mankind" (S-10/2, preamble) posed by the existence of nuclear weapons. The draft resolution concludes with the very cogent recommendation that the report being requested from the Secretary-General be examined at the fortieth session of the General Assembly in connection with the item dealing with the prevention of a nuclear war.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

The purpose of the draft resolution could not be simpler, nor, in our view, could it be more obviously useful. In operative paragraph 1 it requests the Secretary-General:

"to compile, classify and distribute as a document of the United Nations the essential parts of all national and international scientific studies on Nuclear Winter published so far or which may be published before 30 April 1985".

To facilitate that task, in operative paragraph 2 the draft resolution urges:

"all States and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, through their intermediary, to transmit to the Secretary-General, prior to the above-mentioned date, the relevant material in their possession which may be useful for the above purpose".

For anyone with even a superficial familiarity with this question it will be obvious that it creates an:

"urgent need to continue and develop and scientific studies to increase the knowledge and understanding of the various elements and consequences of Nuclear Winter,"

as noted in the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, particularly if account is taken of the second and fourth preambular paragraphs, which read:

"Noting that as a result of recent atmospheric and biological studies there have been new findings which indicate that in addition to blast, heat and radiation, nuclear war, even on a limited scale, would produce smoke, soot and dust of sufficient magnitude as to trigger an arctic Nuclear Winter which may transform the Earth into a darkened, frozen planet where conditions would be conducive to mass extinction".

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

That is the text of the second preambular paragraph. The fourth preambular paragraph reads as follows:

"Recognizing that the prospect of Nuclear Winter poses an unprecedented peril to all nations, even those far removed from the nuclear explosions, which would add immeasurably to the previously known dangers of nuclear war".

(A/C.1/39/L.22)

In the light of the foregoing, it would be superfluous to try to emphasize the usefulness of a report such as the one requested in the draft; for an organ which has the human and technical resources that the United Nations Secretariat has, this would, furthermore, undoubtedly be very easy to undertake. We should bear in mind that the specialized studies to be carried out are not so numerous and their sources, in Sweden, where they were initiated in 1980, the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, are relatively few, well known and accessible. We should mention that perhaps the most important of them is the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which is expressly mentioned in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

In view of what I have stated, the members of the co-sponsoring delegations I mentioned at the outset trust that the draft will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. MRKIC (Yugoslavia): More than six years have elapsed since the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the implementation of its decisions and recommendations has never been more needed than today.

We agree with the assessment that no concrete results have been achieved in the past period, which should have seen the beginning of the process of implementation of the recommendations of the first special session on disarmament. This long period was characterized by a lack of political will on the part of those who bear greatest responsibility to respond in an adequate way to the numerous appeals of the majority of Member States to undertake urgently concrete measures aimed at halting the arms race and at launching disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. The arms race continues unabated in spite of the clear commitments of the entire international community contained in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament. In other words, developments took a direction contrary to the one jointly adopted in the Programme of Action of the first special session on disarmament.

(Mr. Mrkic, Yugoslavia)

This assessment has been most strongly pronounced in the course of the debate in our Committee. The same conclusion was drawn by the Ministers of non-aligned countries at their last meeting in New York.

Of particular concern is the fact that even the limited talks on the reduction of armaments and on disarmament that had been under way were stalled. On the other hand, the nuclear arms race has assumed more intensity, and further deployment of nuclear weapons in some parts of the world has taken place. Mankind is facing a real danger of the spreading of the arms race into outer space. Regrettably, there are also numerous other examples that testify to the fact that much has been done to enhance the arms race and almost nothing to launch disarmament. Briefly, the world has become even more insecure, international security even more vulnerable and the threat of the outbreak of nuclear war even greater.

That is why the group of sponsors, consisting of Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burma, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zaire and Yugoslavia, has submitted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.58, wishing to encourage the efforts aimed at halting the arms race and at launching disarmament.

The sponsors are firm in their belief that everything should be done to implement the decisions and recommendations of the first special session on disarmament, unanimously reaffirmed at the second special session on disarmament. To that end, a special appeal has been addressed to the great Powers to begin serious negotiations in a constructive spirit, taking into account the interest of the entire international community.

The sponsors would like to express their desire that the draft resolution receive general support, since it is motivated by the common objectives of all Members of the United Nations.

Mr. CARSALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sudan, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, I have the honour of introducing draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.64 on "Prevention of nuclear war".

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

It is completely unnecessary for me to speak at length concerning the need to take measures for the prevention of the outbreak of nuclear war, whose consequences for mankind have been repeatedly described. However, it is to be regretted that on a question on which everyone claims to be in agreement, on which everyone states that he recognizes the irrationality of the use of nuclear weapons, on which everyone states that he is in favour of taking actions for the elimination of the risk of nuclear war, specific measures to that end have not been adopted and in fact there has not even been a beginning of thorough consideration of the question.

It is difficult to believe that even the inscription of the item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament was achieved only after lengthy and strenuous efforts, but it is even more difficult to believe that the Conference on Disarmament has so far been prevented from starting not only negotiations but even prior consideration of all the proposals related to the item in an ad hoc committee. The Group of 21 in Geneva displayed the greatest flexibility in order that a first step might be taken providing for the establishment of a committee with a non-negotiating mandate, despite the fact that this did not respond to its aspirations. It was not possible even to take that first step.

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

All of this is reflected in the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, whose chapter on the agenda item "Prevention of nuclear war" closes as follows:

"The Group of 21 noted that despite the fact that the Conference on Disarmament had discussed this question for two years, it had been unable even to establish a subsidiary body to consider appropriate and practical measures for prevention of nuclear war. They were convinced that the General Assembly should take note of this deplorable failure of the Conference and, having regard to the urgency of this matter and the inadequacy of existing measures, devise other suitable steps to expedite effective action to remove the danger of nuclear war". (A/39/27, para. 95)

The draft resolution which I have the honour to introduce attempts to meet those concerns. It reiterates in the most emphatic terms the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions 37/78 I and 38/183 G that the Conference on Disarmament, through a subsidiary body, undertake, as a matter of the highest priority, negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on appropriate and practical measures for the prevention of nuclear war.

The draft resolution also initiates a process intended to gather views, ideas and suggestions on possible measures which could expedite effective action on the question of the prevention of nuclear war. First of all, it invites Governments to submit to the Secretary-General their views on this matter. This should be done as a matter of urgency, no later than 1 February 1985, to enable the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this question in time to be transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament in April 1985. The report would subsequently be formally submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, at which time the Assembly could decide, if it deemed it appropriate, what new steps could be taken with the basic, priority objective of preventing nuclear war.

I would point out that in the view of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.64 the report requested of the Secretary-General should not be a recompilation of responses sent by Governments or an arrangement or analysis of those responses. It is our hope that the report will provide an overview of the question of the prevention of nuclear war, making use, of course, of the comments provided by Governments, but also containing its own points of view - the ideas the Secretary-General has developed on an item which is so important and which is the subject of continuous concern. I think that, since the item is such a broad one,

(Mr. Carasales, Argentina)

the Secretary-General may, in preparing the report, require the assistance of a consultant with knowledge and experience in the field.

In any event, it is hoped that the exercise which would begin with the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.64 will be useful and fruitful. The danger of the outbreak of nuclear war is constant, and it seems to increase with the passing of time. The international community has endeavoured to prevent that danger, but what has been done thus far has obviously not been enough. The question is open to new suggestions and proposals, both substantive and procedural, although it must be recognized that in this field the separation between the substantive and the procedural is tenuous and often non-existent. Ideas of both types should be the raw material of the report of the Secretary-General, study of which could, we hope, lead to the implementation of new measures most likely to contribute to preventing nuclear war.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I have the honour now to introduce three draft resolutions.

I wish first to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.4, sponsored by the delegations of Austria, Ecuador, Egypt, Pakistan, Sweden and Mexico, concerning the study prepared by the Group of Governmental Experts on Unilateral Disarmament Measures designated by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 38/183 J of 20 December 1983.

It will be recalled that that resolution stated that the study should consider: "ways and means that seem advisable for stimulating the adoption of unilateral nuclear disarmament measures which, without prejudice to the security of States, would come to promote and complement bilateral and multilateral negotiations in this sphere". (resolution 38/183 J)

In the introduction to that study prepared at the request of the Assembly, the authors began by stressing - rightly - that:

"The current international situation is characterized by fear, suspicion, tension and the steady growth of armaments." (A/39/516, annex, para. 1)

They draw several conclusions, set out in the final chapter of the report. Among them, I wish to note the following: The first is that:

"In an effective strategy to stop the arms race, unilateral disarmament measures have a role to play". (para. 66)

The second is that:

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

"A review of major unilateral nuclear disarmament measures provides evidence that unilateral measures of restraint and de-escalation may be feasible and useful, and that interacting unilateral measures could stimulate and advance arms limitation and disarmament negotiations". (para. 68)

The third is that there are four areas which require:

"priority attention in terms of unilateral measures, with a view to promoting and complementing disarmament negotiations" (para. 70)

and that those areas are: a nuclear-test-ban; prevention of nuclear war "including the questions of non-first-use of nuclear weapons and a nuclear freeze" (para. 70); security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States; and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

The contents of the study prepared by the Group of Governmental Experts were taken into account by the sponsors in preparing draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.4, which I am introducing and in which it is proposed that the Assembly, in addition to taking note of the study with satisfaction and expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the Group of Governmental Experts, take note of the conclusions of the study and trust that they:

"may encourage nuclear-weapon States to take the steps necessary to promote and orient adequately disarmament negotiations". (A/C.1/39/L.4)

The second draft resolution that I have the honour to introduce now is draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.35 on the World Disarmament Campaign. It is co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Mexico. Its text is what is usually called self-explanatory.

The draft resolution begins by recalling that in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly declared that it was essential that:

"not only Governments but also the peoples of the world recognize and understand the dangers in the present situation and stressed the importance of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of disarmament".

The second preambular paragraph recalls all the resolutions that have been adopted by the Assembly on this matter from the thirty-fifth to the thirty-eighth sessions and the reports of the Secretary-General from 1981 to 1983.

The third and fourth paragraphs mention the latest reports of the Secretary-General on this matter. The main report is undoubtedly the one dated 3 October 1984 covering the implementation of the programme of activities of the World Disarmament Campaign during 1984 and the activities contemplated for 1985, as well as its main financial aspects, in connection with which we should mention the final act of the second United Nations Pledging Conference for the Campaign, held on 24 October 1984.

I wish to state here in passing that I hope the Committee Secretariat will provide us with that final act either this afternoon or tomorrow. We wish to have it in full, or at least a summary of it.

In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution I am explaining, the manner in which the World Disarmament Campaign has been geared by the Secretary-General is commended. Operative paragraph 2 recalls that, as it was agreed by consensus in the Concluding Document of the second special session devoted to disarmament, it is

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

"an essential requisite for the universality of the Campaign that it receive 'the co-operation and participation of all States'".

Operative paragraph 3 endorses the statement made by the Secretary-General on 24 October 1984 to the effect that such co-operation implies that adequate funds be made available and that consequently:

"the criterion of universality also applies to pledges", since 'a Campaign without world-wide participation and funding will have difficulty in reflecting this principle in its implementation'".

As a result of the aforementioned, operative paragraph 4 regrets that "most of the States which have the largest military expenditures have not so far made any financial contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign".

(A/C.1/39/L.35)

Operative paragraph 5 decides that at the fortieth session of the General Assembly there should be a third United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign and:

"expresses the hope that on that occasion all those member States which have not yet announced any voluntary contribution may do so".

In the last four operative paragraphs of the draft resolution the Assembly, in operative paragraph 6, reiterates its recommendation that it is most desirable that the Secretary-General may enjoy full freedom to take the decisions he deems fit within the framework of the Campaign previously approved; it requests, in operative paragraph 7, the same high official to give permanent character to his instructions to the United Nations information centres and regional commissions to give wide publicity to the World Disarmament Campaign; it also requests, in operative paragraph 8, the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report covering the activities of the World Disarmament Campaign during 1984 and 1985; finally, in operative paragraph 9, it decides to include the item in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session of the Assembly.

The sponsors of the draft resolution venture to hope that, given its absolute objectivity and the absence of controversial elements in it, it may be adopted by consensus.

The third and final draft resolution that I have the honour to introduce on behalf of the sponsors - the delegations of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Mexico - is draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.31 concerning the comprehensive programme of disarmament, under item 59 (i) of the Assembly's agenda.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

As the Committee will recall, after the adoption of the Final Document of 1978, the United Nations made two attempts to adopt a comprehensive programme of disarmament: the first was when the General Assembly considered in 1982, at its second special session devoted to disarmament, the draft programme prepared by the Committee on Disarmament, and the second was when the Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session in 1983, once again received a revised draft programme from the same negotiating body. Both attempts, unfortunately, were unable to lead to the desired objective. That is why the Assembly adopted resolution 38/183 K on 20 December last, the immediate antecedent of the draft resolution I am introducing now.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

This self-explanatory text begins by mentioning paragraph 109 of the Final Document, which should continue to be the overriding principle for the preparation of the programme, which, as stated there, should encompass:

"... all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control becomes a reality in a world in which international peace and security prevail and in which the new international economic order is strengthened and consolidated."

(S-10/2 para. 109)

The draft resolution also mentions the main provisions of resolution 38/183 K and the interim report of the Conference on Disarmament and urges the latter to make "all efforts" so as to be in a position to submit to the Assembly a complete draft programme at its forty-first session, pursuant to the express request of the Assembly contained in resolution 38/183 K of 20 December 1983.

The draft concludes, as is customary in these cases, by requesting the Conference on Disarmament:

"... to report on the progress of its work to the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

The sponsors of the draft resolution trust that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. ERDENECHULJUN (Mongolia): The Mongolian delegation has asked to speak in order to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.39 entitled "Disarmament Week", under agenda item 59 (j).

I do so on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, the Ukrainian SSR, Viet Nam and Mongolia.

Disarmament Week, proclaimed by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, since then has become an integral part of the world-wide activities to mobilize world public opinion in support of halting and reversing the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, and averting the mounting danger of a nuclear war. Today it is widely observed, both in geographical scope and in the diversified involvement of a growing number of international and national non-governmental organizations all over the world. Disarmament Week has been the occasion of important functions in many countries and in the United Nations as well.

(Mr. Erdenechuluun, Mongolia)

All this can be seen, in particular, from the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/39/493 and from the statements made at the annual ceremonial meeting of the First Committee held three weeks ago.

We believe that the need for further intensification of the world-wide campaign for disarmament at this critical juncture in international relations becomes more timely than ever before.

The draft resolution we are introducing today follows in the main last year's resolution and those adopted previously. Therefore, I will refer briefly to the new provisions and main points incorporated in the draft resolution.

The draft resolution, while expressing serious concern over the continued escalation of the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, stresses the vital importance of eliminating the threat of a nuclear war, ending the nuclear-arms race and bringing about disarmament for the maintenance of world peace.

It stresses the important role of the mass media in acquainting the world public with the aims of Disarmament Week and measures undertaken within that framework and invites the Secretary-General to use as widely as possible the United Nations mass media to promote better understanding of the disarmament problems and Disarmament Week objectives by world public opinion.

It further recommends to all States to observe Disarmament Week in 1985 in close connection with the celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, International Youth Year and other commemorative dates.

The draft resolution invites all States, international non-governmental organizations, relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, within their areas of competence, to take an active part in Disarmament Week and to inform the Secretary-General accordingly.

Finally, it requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report on the implementation of the provisions of this resolution.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that this draft resolution will receive, as before, broad support among the members of this Committee.

Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): The draft resolution that is being introduced by Cyprus is, I believe, necessary in the circumstances to deal with a world situation in which we find in recent years a very serious and almost unprecedented deterioration in relations between East and West. The fact is that we are approaching the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and require a new approach to world problems. Considering that 39 years after the founding of the United Nations we have reached a stage of anarchy, insecurity and terrorism that has never before been thought of, something has to be done to deal more effectively with world problems, particularly with regard to disarmament and international security.

We cannot continue in this way, with an arms race that has reached unprecedented levels, to the point that the two super-Powers now produce at least four new nuclear weapons every day, adding to their quantity and quality. Where does that lead us?

Draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.67, which expresses our grave concern over the sharp deterioration in world affairs and the escalation of the arms race, particularly in new and more destructive nuclear weapons, reflects the need for the aforementioned new approach.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

Considering that in these circumstances, coinciding as they do with the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the international community must cross the threshold and take a historical decision to bring the arms race to a halt before it is too late, my draft resolution:

"Calls on the Security Council, as the only organ of the United Nations whose decisions have the element of enforceability" - and which according to the Charter, is to deal with disarmament very directly and very seriously - "to hold a special session" - at a high level - "to give consideration to the escalating arms race with the view to bringing it to a halt;

"Requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session" - which is the fortieth anniversary.

The international community cannot allow the fortieth anniversary to pass in the ordinary way, holding discussions on matters that have proved so ineffective over the years, so that while the arms race has been galloping, disarmament has been a stagnant pretence. We want effective action. Indeed, by its new approach, this draft resolution, coming from a small country, is intended to deal with these problems in breaking new ground towards effective Security Council decisions.

The CHAIRMAN: If no other delegation wishes to speak in order to introduce draft resolutions, I shall now call on the Committee Secretary to make some announcements.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following countries have become co-sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/39/L.5, Rwanda; A/C.1/39/L.8, Romania; A/C.1/39/L.11, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America; A/C.1/39/L.12, Romania; A/C.1/39/L.13, Romania; A/C.1/39/L.22, Bangladesh; A/C.1/39/L.24, Australia and Rwanda; A/C.1/39/L.27, Austria, Bangladesh, Rwanda and Thailand; A/C.1/39/L.28, Australia; A/C.1/39/L.29, Bahamas, New Zealand and Sudan; A/C.1/39/L.30, Bangladesh; A/C.1/39/L.32, Romania; A/C.1/39/L.33, Indonesia; A/C.1/39/L.35, Romania; A/C.1/39/L.37, Bangladesh; A/C.1/39/L.41, Bahamas, Cape Verde, Federal Republic of Germany and Gabon; A/C.1/39/L.43, Bangladesh, Greece, Indonesia and Romania, and A/C.1/39/L.45, Syrian Arab Republic.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.