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**at 3 p.m.**  
**New York**

**VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA (Zaire)**

**CONTENTS**

**CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69**  
**(continued)**

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 48 TO 69

Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): Today the United States delegation is pleased to introduce a draft resolution dealing with the free exchange of views on disarmament and related security issues. This draft resolution which falls under agenda item 62 on general and complete disarmament, was issued under the symbol A/C.1/42/L.65 and Corr.1. Our delegation welcomes the co-sponsorship of this draft resolution by Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy.

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

In his remarks before the Committee on 16 October the United States representative, Ambassador Okun, pointed out that the United States has always considered that an essential element for progress in disarmament is openness in military matters. In our view a free and open exchange of views on disarmament and related international-security issues has been very productive in our own country. It has contributed to a better understanding of the role that arms-limitation and disarmament arrangements can play in strengthening international security and making this a more peaceful world. In our pursuit of that objective an informed citizenry has helped our Government develop realistic and meaningful arms-control measures.

The United States is convinced that we can all help dispel international suspicions and build international confidence in support of realistic arms-control measures by freely exchanging views and information on international-security issues related to disarmament, among individuals, among non-governmental organizations and among nations. The reach of such free exchange should be extended. Our draft resolution would lend support to that process.

The tradition of free and open exchange of views is a long one, and one which is shared by many nations. Recently, movement towards greater openness in general and about disarmament and related international-security issues in particular has also become increasingly evident in countries with different traditions. Adoption of the draft resolution we are proposing would acknowledge and encourage this welcome trend, a trend that can help us all in our search for a common understanding of the complex issues that the Committee has before it.

We are confident that there is a widely shared belief that Governments should promote the open dissemination of information on their own armament programmes and on how these programmes relate to efforts for disarmament. We are convinced of a similar sharing of views on the importance of permitting the dissemination of

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

literature, on the broadest basis possible, dealing with disarmament and related international-security issues and, to the extent that the necessary facilities are available, of encouraging international-expert participation in programmes on radio and television dealing with these issues. We believe that there is a widely shared view that Governments should respect the right of their citizens to assemble to express their views on these issues.

Our delegation has been discussing its approach to this draft resolution with many other delegations, and it is prepared to continue those consultations. We are confident that the draft resolution will command general support in the Committee.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): Following consultations with Asian colleagues, I have the honour and pleasure to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.30, "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia."

At the very outset I wish to emphasize that the draft resolution is not conceptually different from General Assembly resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985 and 41/60 J of 3 December 1986 for establishing the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and Latin America, respectively. I also wish to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the thrust of the draft resolution now being introduced is in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 37/100 F of 13 December 1982, 38/73 J of 15 December 1983 and 39/63 F of 12 December 1984 on regional disarmament.

That apart, the draft resolution now before us seeks, very simply, to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in what is the world's largest continent, in terms of both area and population. My delegation believes that the establishment of such a centre would represent a practical means of enhancing public awareness in Asia of the many complexities involved in disarmament issues. We are also of the view that the centre would help in co-ordinating the efforts of the Asian countries for peace and disarmament and in

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

building an atmosphere of mutual confidence and co-operation in this area of utmost importance and priority.

In presenting this draft resolution the Nepalese delegation has been particularly conscious of the present financial constraints of the United Nations system. We have therefore taken care to recommend that the establishment of the proposed centre be on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions by Member States

While we also believe that Kathmandu would be a suitable location for the proposed centre, both in view of its central location on the Asian continent and because of Nepal's well-known commitment to peace and disarmament, I would also like to draw the attention of the Committee to the modest scale of operations that has been proposed.

This is underlined by the general stipulation that the centre should be established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations, as indicated in operative paragraph 1. More specifically, it is reflected in the reference in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution to the fact that the establishment and functioning of the centre should make full use of the existing United Nations infrastructure in Kathmandu with a view to the full employment of available resources. I am able to confirm that His Majesty's Government of Nepal is prepared to make a contribution of nearly a quarter of a million Nepalese rupees over the two-year period towards meeting the local cost of establishing such a centre, mindful as it is of the financial problems besetting our Organization at this stage.

I would therefore hope that the members of the Committee could adopt the draft resolution without a vote, as it did in the case of similar earlier draft resolutions establishing such regional centres in Africa and Latin America.

Mr. INZKO (Austria): The Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, stated, inter alia, the following:

"The Conference, mindful of the provisions of Article V and Article X, and determined to strengthen the authority of the Convention and to enhance confidence in the implementation of its provisions, agrees that the States Parties are to implement, on the basis of mutual co-operation, the following measures, in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, and in order to improve international co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities:

"1. Exchange of data, including name, location, scope and general description of activities, on research centres and laboratories that meet very high national or international safety standards established for handling, for permitted purposes, biological materials that pose a high individual and community risk or specialize in permitted biological activities directly related to the Convention.

"2. Exchange of information on all outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins that seem to deviate from the normal pattern as regards type, development, place, or time of occurrence. If possible, the information provided would include, as soon as it is available, data on the type of disease, approximate area affected, and number of cases.

"3. Encouragement of publication of results of biological research directly related to the Convention, in scientific journals generally available to States Parties, as well as promotion of use for permitted purposes of knowledge gained in this research.

(Mr. Inzko, Austria)

"4. Active promotion of contacts between scientists engaged in biological research directly related to the Convention, including exchanges for joint research on a mutually agreed basis."

(BWC/CONF.II/13/II, p. 6)

Furthermore, the Conference decided to hold an ad hoc meeting of scientific and technical experts from States parties to finalize the modalities for the exchange of information and data by working out, inter alia, appropriate forms to be used by States parties for the exchange of information agreed to in this Final Declaration, thus enabling States parties to follow a standardized procedure.

In accordance with the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference, the Ad Hoc Meeting was held from 31 March to 15 April 1987, at Geneva. On 15 April it adopted, by consensus, its report contained in document BWC/CONF.II/EX/2. This report specifies a large number of practical measures and modalities for the implementation of the decision made by the Review Conference. I would like to mention some of them.

First, to enable the States parties to follow a common procedure for the exchange of data on relevant research centres and laboratories, a detailed standardized form to be used for such exchange was worked out.

Secondly, as regards exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins that seem to deviate from the normal pattern, the Ad Hoc Meeting agreed that an initial report should be given promptly after cognizance of the outbreak and should be followed up by annual reports. To enable States parties to follow a standardized procedure, a form to be used for these purposes was worked out. Furthermore, in order to improve international co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological activities and in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, States parties were encouraged to invite experts from other States parties to

(Mr. Inzko, Austria)

assist in the handling of an outbreak, and to respond favourably to such invitations.

Thirdly, concerning the encouragement of publication of results of biological research directly related to the Convention, as well as the promotion of use for permitted purposes of knowledge gained in this research, the Ad Hoc Meeting recommended that basic research in bioscience, and particularly that directly related to the Convention, should generally be unclassified and that applied research to the extent possible, without infringing national and commercial interests, should also be unclassified. States parties were also encouraged to provide information on their policy as regards publication of results of biological research. Furthermore, the meeting discussed the question of co-operation and assistance as regards the safe handling of biological material covered by the Convention and expressed its support for efforts aimed at enhancing such co-operation.

Fourthly, in order to actively promote professional contacts between scientists, joint research projects and other activities aimed at preventing or reducing the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions and at improving international co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological activities, States parties were encouraged to provide information, to the extent possible, on planned international conferences, seminars, symposia and similar events dealing with biological research directly related to the Convention, as well as on other opportunities for exchange of scientists, joint research and other measures to promote contacts between scientists engaged in biological research directly related to the Convention. Again, to enable States parties to follow a standardized procedure, the Ad Hoc Meeting agreed on a form to be used for exchange of information under this item.

(Mr. Inzko, Austria)

Fifthly, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 41/58 A, adopted on 5 December 1986, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as might be required for the implementation of relevant parts of the Final Declaration, the Ad Hoc Meeting concurred that all information agreed to above should be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and be forwarded promptly to all States parties.

The Ad Hoc Meeting also agreed that the first exchange of information and data should take place not later than 15 October 1987 and that, thereafter, information was to be given on an annual basis not later than 15 April and should cover the previous calendar year.

Finally, should any question arise in relation to the objective of the Convention or in the application of its provisions, including any question regarding the information and data which States parties have undertaken to exchange, attention was drawn to the possibility that, inter alia, the Secretary-General might be requested to investigate - with the assistance of qualified experts and using procedures available to him - information that might be brought to his attention concerning the possible use of bacteriological or toxin weapons.

I have presented the results of the Ad Hoc Meeting of experts in some detail. This meeting was the first of its kind. No other review conference has ever decided to hold such a follow-up meeting. The substantive results achieved are important and significant. With the implementation of those concrete and practical measures, the States parties to the Convention will, in a positive manner, demonstrate their determination to strengthen the authority of the Convention and enhance confidence in the implementation of its provisions. This commands the full attention and support of this Committee.

(Mr. Inzko, Austria)

The Ad Hoc Meeting met under the authority of the President of the Second Review Conference, Ambassador Winfried Lang of Austria. I am therefore pleased to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41 entitled "Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction."

I do so also on behalf of Sweden, which provided the meeting with its Chairman, Dr. Bo Rybeck, and on behalf of the three depository States, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as on behalf of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Spain, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zaire.

(Mr. Inzko, Austria)

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41, in its preamble, recalls previous resolutions pertaining to the Convention, the meeting held by States parties at Geneva in 1986 to review the operation of the Convention and notes with satisfaction that there are more than 100 States parties to the Convention, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

In the operative part it is noted with appreciation that the Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts from States parties to the Convention was held at Geneva from 31 March to 15 April 1987, and adopted by consensus a report finalizing the modalities for the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference. It is also noted that the first exchange of information and data should take place not later than 15 October 1987 and that thereafter information on an annual basis should be provided through the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat not later than 15 April. Satisfaction is expressed that the first such exchange of information and data has commenced. Furthermore the Secretary-General is requested to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the relevant parts of the Final Declaration. Finally, signatory States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention are called upon to do so without delay, and those States that have not yet signed the Convention are called upon to join the States parties thereto at an early date.

The draft resolution builds upon resolution 41/58 A, which was adopted without a vote. The new paragraphs reflect the developments since the adoption of that last resolution and draw upon the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference and the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts, both adopted by consensus. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.41 is submitted in the same spirit of consensus, and I express the conviction that it also merits being adopted without a vote.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): On behalf of the delegations of Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Samoa, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey and my own delegation I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.22, entitled "Objective information on military matters".

This draft resolution builds further on its predecessors, which were adopted with increasingly strong support.

The sponsors of the draft firmly believe that the provision by States of objective information on military matters will have a beneficial effect in helping to establish an atmosphere of greater confidence, a climate in which the likelihood of an outbreak of conflict is correspondingly reduced. They accord a high priority to the fostering of such a climate. Equally valuable is the contribution which the availability of relevant information could make towards avoiding the sort of erroneous assessments of military capabilities and intentions which could provoke unnecessary military build-ups on the part of States. Recent events have confirmed our belief in the importance of such openness and transparency. We have read with considerable interest the statement by General Secretary Gorbachev in September of this year that he believes that in the case of the Soviet Union comparison of defence spending will be able to be made in the next two or three years. This prompts me to express the hope that in the fairly near term more States which have hitherto withheld such information will be in a position to provide more objective and reliable military data.

I should like to stress that the recommendations made in the draft resolution do not and are not intended to impinge on the vital security interests of States. Rather, the General Assembly would urge the reporting of information which many States already routinely make available to the public by way, for instance, of

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

reporting to national parliaments. It would specifically invite States to consider implementing measures which would give practical effect to the principles of openness and transparency. One such measure would be the use of the United Nations Standardized Reporting Instrument on military expenditure.

We regard this instrument as a highly useful tool in our efforts. But States need not confine themselves to this instrument alone. Other measures which would complement and extend its effect would be most welcome to my Government and to those delegations in whose name I speak.

The draft resolution contains a request that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament take into account the provisions of the resolution on the basis of a report from the Secretary-General. We believe that this is especially appropriate in view of the increasing recognition of the importance of the subject.

Let me say that we would welcome the comments of other delegations on the draft resolution and are indeed in consultation with a number of delegations. The draft already takes account of some concerns that have been expressed to us. We attach importance to extending the area of support for these ideas and are ready to work further for this.

While I am addressing the Committee I should like also to introduce a second draft resolution. I have the honour to introduce on behalf of the delegations of Cameroon, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and also my own delegation the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/42/L.60, entitled "United Nations disarmament studies".

In each of the past two years we have had the honour of introducing a draft resolution on this subject, both of which were adopted by the General Assembly without a vote. In these resolutions Member States were invited to submit their

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

views and proposals on how the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament studies might be improved. We much appreciate the fact that a number of Governments responded both in 1985 and in 1986.

Resolution 40/152 K also contained a request to the Secretary-General to invite the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies to prepare a comprehensive report on the matter for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. As paragraph 124 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament records, the Advisory Board was set up to advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of United Nations disarmament studies.

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

The Advisory Board has now produced its report and this has been transmitted to the Assembly in document A/42/300. The purpose of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.60 is to pursue the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Board's report.

The centrepiece of the Advisory Board's report is that, given the Board's twin functions as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), it is well placed to provide advice on the best means of implementing proposals for disarmament studies. It points out that it would be highly desirable for Member States to submit proposals for study by the first of September each year, to allow the Board to formulate advice at its September session as to which means of carrying out a study would be the most suitable. I should emphasize that the report does not suggest that this practice should be made compulsory for Member States and nor does our draft resolution. To meet the concerns of some delegations on this point we propose to revise operative paragraph 3 of the text so that it simply invites Member States to present proposals for preference by the due date in order to give the Advisory Board the opportunity to make its recommendations. Similarly, the report makes clear that, while the Board would recommend, the final decision would, as ever, rest with the General Assembly. This point is already reflected in the final paragraph of the preamble to the draft resolution. However, to allay any doubts on the matter my delegation and the co-sponsors propose to replace that preambular paragraph by an operative paragraph affirming that the final decision on United Nations disarmament studies rests with the General Assembly.

The draft resolution also takes up the Advisory Board's conclusion that the principle of consensus should continue to apply to the preparation of studies. This does not, of course, imply that there must be consensus on every sentence of the study, provided that the overall result is balanced. On this point, to take

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom)

account of concerns expressed to us by some delegations, we propose to amend the original operative paragraph 2 so that it simply "takes note of" the conclusion of the Advisory Board on this matter.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.60 trust that, as with the two previous resolutions on this subject, it will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. HAIDER (Pakistan): I am speaking today to introduce two draft resolutions sponsored by Pakistan. The first draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.24, which is also sponsored by Bangladesh, relates to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. The second draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.4, deals with the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's interest in these two issues flows from its principled position on and concern over the grave threat mankind confronts as a result of the existence of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has always supported and pursued a comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament. In our view all disarmament measures, whether global, regional or bilateral, interim or of a collateral nature, deserve support. Pending the realization of the vital objective of nuclear disarmament, we believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones represents an important collateral measure.

In paragraph 61 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the Assembly unanimously recognized the need to encourage the process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world, with the ultimate objective of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. The immediate objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in a specific region would be to insulate it against the threat of nuclear attack or nuclear blackmail, as well as to prevent the geographical spread of nuclear weapons and thereby contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament.

(Mr. Haider, Pakistan)

The members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries have also supported the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The political declaration issued at the conclusion of the eighth summit conference of non-aligned countries held at Harare in September of last year called, inter alia, for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, with the objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions is by no means an end in itself, nor is it a substitute for a global, general and comprehensive approach to disarmament. However, nuclear-weapon-free zones constitute an important partial measure in the step-by-step approach to general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. In addition, they derive their relevance from being important confidence-building measures.

Pakistan shares with other States of the South Asia region a deep commitment to the objective of keeping our area free of nuclear weapons. Our South Asian States have made unilateral declarations that they do not wish to acquire or develop nuclear weapons. We believe, therefore, that appropriate conditions exist in the South Asia region to carry forward the objective of transforming it into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Pakistan's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation has been demonstrated by various proposals it has made over the years to ensure the permanent denuclearization of South Asia. We believe that the regional approach is the most feasible and effective means of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in our region. We are therefore in favour of exploring all avenues in order to find an agreed basis for promoting an arrangement to ensure nuclear non-proliferation on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis. Pakistan's recent proposal for a comprehensive test-ban agreement in the regional or bilateral context should be seen in that perspective. Pakistan stands for a complete ban on all nuclear

(Mr. Haider, Pakistan)

tests. The conclusion of a regional or bilateral comprehensive test-ban agreement would serve to assure countries of the Asian region, as well as the rest of the world, that no country in South Asia had any intention of pursuing nuclear-weapons options.

(Mr. Haider, Pakistan)

This proposal finds expression in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

My country has also recently made another proposal for the convening of a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, under the auspices of the United Nations, to be held as soon as possible with the participation of regional and other concerned States to prevent the emergence of nuclear weapons in our region. Such a conference would enable the United Nations to address the non-proliferation concerns in a serious and effective manner. Moreover, all proposals, ideas and suggestions will be explored and the agreed approach will be evolved. This programme is reflected in the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

In the draft resolution the Secretary-General is also requested to ascertain the views of the regional and other concerned States and to promote consultations between them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. We hope that the draft resolution will receive widespread support in the Committee and in the General Assembly.

The second draft resolution, A/C.1/42/L.4, deals with the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons. Pakistan is aware that the most effective assurance against the nuclear threat remains the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. However, until the objective of nuclear disarmament is achieved the critical importance of credible guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons cannot be overemphasized. Such assurances have become all the more essential since meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament does not appear to be in sight.

(Mr. Haider, Pakistan)

In this context, Pakistan has actively participated in the search for a viable and acceptable international agreement. It is a source of deep disappointment to us that while there are no objections in principle to the concept of negative security assurances, the Conference on Disarmament has failed to register any progress on negotiating an internationally binding legal instrument on the subject. We therefore consider it important that the General Assembly call upon the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its efforts to reach agreement on a formula which will enable it to elaborate and conclude effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

The unilateral declarations made by some nuclear-weapon States on this subject do not adequately meet the concerns of the non-nuclear-weapon States; they reflect the security concerns of the nuclear-weapon Powers themselves. My delegation continues to believe that in order to be effective assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States must be unconditional and legally binding.

Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.4, submitted by my delegation, has been prepared along the lines of the resolution adopted last year. In its operative paragraphs an appeal is made to the nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate the political will necessary to reach agreement of a legally binding character. It is my delegation's hope that the draft resolution will receive the Committee's unanimous support.

Mr. MOREL (France) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the sponsors - Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and my own country - I wish to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.11, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

(Mr. Morel, France)

The text represents a pragmatic and concrete idea for preventing an arms race in outer space. It takes into account the whole context of efforts made in this field, whether the existing legal régime concerning the use of outer space and the importance of respecting and preserving it, or civilian or military activities in outer space and their possible impact on international security and economic and social development.

The draft resolution stresses the importance and complementary nature of the multilateral process carried on in the Conference on Disarmament and bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

Far from preventing the Conference on Disarmament from making progress towards preventing an arms race in outer space, as the representative of the Soviet Union suggested, the draft resolution is intended to strengthen multilateral efforts in this field and put them on a solid footing. The work of the Conference on Disarmament this year has made it possible to achieve a better understanding of the problems and a clearer view of the various positions, and we have taken that into account in the text of the draft resolution. The efforts in Geneva must be continued to enable the achievement of a level of understanding making it possible to define the scope and specific objectives of multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. It is clear that that level of understanding has not yet been reached. But, rather than regard that as a failure, rejection or obstruction, we must view it as an invitation to deepen the work of the Conference in this field. The way of compromise, which was profitably followed this year, shows that it is in everybody's interest to continue in this manner.

That is why it is recommended in the draft resolution that at its 1988 session the Conference on Disarmament should re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, with an adequate mandate, which is to be

(Mr. Morel, France)

defined in Geneva by the Conference itself, taking into account all the relevant factors. The draft resolution does not prejudge the nature of that mandate or the various positions relating to the matter.

All the delegations which, through me, are putting forward the draft resolution today are aware of the considerable stake involved in preventing an arms race in outer space. They therefore fully share the general concern of other delegations that have introduced draft resolutions on the same topic.

(Mr. Morel, France)

We also base ourselves on the positive practical experience acquired and the progress achieved on well defined foundations, because that is the only way to guarantee real, and not symbolic, progress effectively to prevent an arms race in outer space. That is why, together with other delegations, we have striven to achieve a better understanding in order to reach a common text.

Mr. KORSGAARD-PEDERSEN (Denmark): I have asked to speak in order to introduce the draft resolution in document A/C.1/42/L.12, under agenda item 62 (c), "General and complete disarmament: conventional disarmament".

At its forty first session the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/59 C of 3 December 1986, in which, inter alia, it requested the Disarmament Commission to consider at its session in 1987 the question of conventional disarmament. In the resolution the Disarmament Commission was also requested to take fully into account the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Study on Conventional Disarmament as well as all other relevant present and future proposals, with a view to facilitating the identification of possible measures in the field of conventional disarmament. The resolution of the General Assembly was adopted by consensus.

The outcome of the deliberations of the Disarmament Commission on this subject is contained in its report (A/42/42).

As stated in the report, a Working Group was established by the Commission to deal with agenda item 9, regarding the substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament. It was a privilege and honour for my country that the Commission elected a countryman of mine as Chairman of that important Working Group.

We welcome the extensive exchange of views on substantive issues which took place in the Working Group. We think that the area of agreement established in the

(Mr. Korsgaard-Federsen, Denmark)

Group so far is considerable. A very active interest in the subject-matter was demonstrated during the discussions in the Working Group as well as through the submission of various working papers. This interest was also reflected in the many conference room papers mentioned in the report. In our opinion, the progress achieved in the Disarmament Commission this year was encouraging for the future work. The draft report will provide a solid basis for further deliberations on the question in the Commission.

The recommendation of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly is very simple, but also very important:

"The Disarmament Commission recommends to the General Assembly that the Commission should continue its work on conventional disarmament at its next substantive session in 1988." (A/42/42, para. 45)

It is against this background that my delegation has submitted draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.12.

According to the present draft, the General Assembly would inter alia recommend that the report of the Disarmament Commission should provide the basis for further deliberations on the subject by the Commission. It would request the Disarmament Commission to inscribe on the agenda for its forthcoming session in 1988 an item entitled "Substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament, including the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Study on Conventional Disarmament".

The General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to draw the resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament, and, finally, it would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament".

I hope that the Committee is in a position to support the draft resolution and that it will thus be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Ms. MAUALA (Samoa): I am pleased to make the following statement on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations that belong to the South Pacific Forum. These States have as one of their key priorities in disarmament and as a common objective the earliest possible entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty outlawing all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time. For this reason at every session of the General Assembly since 1972 we have sponsored a draft resolution initiated by two of our Members on the urgent need for a nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Our policy on the need for an end to all nuclear testing rests on the following convictions. Nuclear testing is a dangerous and militarily significant activity which contributes to the nuclear arms race. An end to nuclear testing would therefore make a significant contribution towards the goal of nuclear disarmament, leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons. It would also strengthen the régime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Treaty, on which subject a commitment is made to put an end to all nuclear testing.

It is also of immense significance that an end to all nuclear testing has been called for by the world community for the past quarter of a century.

In our view, there should be no further delay in practical work, both multilaterally and bilaterally, on the development of a verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which would be opened for signature by all States and, it is to be hoped, attract universal adherence..

We note that the United States of America and the Soviet Union are to begin bilateral talks on Monday on nuclear-testing issues. This can only be welcomed, as a complementary development to the multilateral process taking place in Geneva.

It should be clear that our policy directed towards the ending of nuclear testing, as just indicated, rests on concerns and convictions of a comprehensive or global character. But we have an additional reason for wanting to see the end to

(Ms. Mauala, Samoa)

all nuclear testing, which is that we in the South Pacific suffer from the conduct of nuclear tests by France in our region. The fact is that the South Pacific is the only region of the world where nuclear weapons continue to be tested outside the territory of a nuclear-weapon State.

Assertions that these tests are safe and pose no environmental or other danger are tendentious, to say the least. It simply cannot be asserted that there is or never will be danger to the environment and peoples of the South Pacific from these tests conducted by France. But, above all, it is simply not acceptable to us that our region of the world should be used by a nuclear-weapon State external to that region as a testing ground for its nuclear weapons development programme. We have appealed to France to end these tests, and we will continue to do so. We have invited France to accede to the Protocols of the Treaty of Rarotonga - the Treaty establishing the South Pacific as a nuclear-free zone.

(Ms. Mauala, Samoa)

We have asked France to reflect deeply on the character and substance of its relations with the peoples of the South Pacific, because we would prefer to have constructive relations with France, and we know that the peoples of our region are angered by the continuing refusal of France to respond to the calls we have made upon it.

In conclusion, we ask for wide support for the draft resolution that we have sponsored with others, at this session on the urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty - draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.77.

Mr. KIBIDI (Zaire) (interpretation from French): As we near the end of the general debate on disarmament at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, I wish, Sir, to join in the words of praise addressed to you by the many delegations represented here. I wish also to congratulate all the officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat - in particular, Mr. Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, whose devotion is an assurance of the success of our work.

The delegation of Zaire is speaking in the general debate today to support draft resolution A/C.1/L.12, relating to conventional disarmament, presented by Denmark. Zaire is happy to become a sponsor in view of the importance we attach to the matter.

My delegation also gives its full support to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, on the review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly. The draft resolution is sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire.

(Mr. Kibidi, Zaire)

Finally, the delegation of Zaire is speaking in the debate with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1, concerning chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons. My country is also a sponsor of that draft resolution, presented by Australia.

With regard to the first draft resolution, issued under the symbol A/C.1/42/L.12, concerning conventional disarmament, the delegation of Zaire fully shares the view of the many countries that believe that, in present-day conditions, most armed conflicts in many third world countries are being fought with conventional weapons, which since the end of the Second World War have caused massive loss of human life and destruction of all kinds to the economic and social infrastructure. Therefore, it is clear that the use of conventional weapons entails serious dangers for all countries. The international community should make a concerted, planned effort to change this state of affairs.

Consequently, my delegation hopes that the question will receive special treatment during the current session, so that the draft resolution on the matter will be adopted by consensus.

As for draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.47, concerning the review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, and in particular regional disarmament, my delegation believes that the effort to initiate disarmament begun by the great nuclear Powers should be strengthened by regional disarmament, which implies a constructive and frank dialogue at the regional level, together with the renunciation of the use of force to settle disputes and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State.

Conflicts between countries in a single region often result from border disputes, different ideological outlooks, the desire for political and economic domination or colonial or neo-colonial ambitions. That desire for domination

(Mr. Kibidi, Zaire)

engenders an unbridled arms race under the pretext of guaranteeing border security and better military protection for a country. That arms race, which is imposed on certain States to prevent any attempt at military invasion, unfortunately for many States, and particularly for the least developed of them, results in a financial haemorrhaging, which increases their dependence on the great Powers that supply sometimes very sophisticated military equipment, thus diverting their meagre resources to military projects that have no economic benefits.

Since regional disarmament is a factor for peace, serving to promote concerted action for the economic and social development of all our States, my delegation fully subscribes to the draft resolution, while being aware of the complexity of the problems involved.

My delegation believes that in this respect an example should be set by the most heavily armed nations in order to create a climate fostering true regional disarmament, under international control, of all the countries belonging to a region.

The States of Central Africa have decided to take the lead in this respect. They plan to hold in the coming months at Lomé, Togo, under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Africa, a high-level technical meeting to discuss steps to strengthen peace, confidence and security among all the States in the Central African region.

I now return to the last draft resolution for which the delegation of Zaire wishes to express support in this statement - draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.67/Rev.1, under the agenda item "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons" - entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention". It is to be noted that the document recalls in timely fashion the provisions of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of

(Mr. Kibidi, Zaire)

Bacteriological Methods of Warfare and the fact that the Conference on Disarmament is currently negotiating a convention on the prohibition of the development, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons, including detailed provisions for the on-site verification of compliance with the convention, and calls for the speedy conclusion of those negotiations.

There is no need to emphasize here the inhuman results of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons and the devastating effects when they are used.

I repeat that my delegation is a sponsor of the draft resolution presented by Australia. We are acutely aware of the importance the international community attaches to the unhesitating adoption of such a resolution. Consequently, it calls for the solidarity of all States to ensure that the draft resolution is adopted by consensus.

Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): In statements made during the general debate in this Committee, my delegation has already outlined the broad position of Bangladesh on disarmament issues.

Today I should like to identify more specifically the particular areas in which the draft resolutions will receive our support. They are the ones that seek the following: first, creation of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace; secondly, assurances to enhance the security of non-nuclear-weapon States; thirdly, establishment of a comprehensive test-ban treaty; fourthly, banning of chemical and bacteriological weapons; fifthly, measures for verification and confidence-building; and, finally, strengthening the role of the United Nations in disarmament matters.

We shall do so because this would be in consonance with our external policy, dedicated to the creation of a peaceful international environment conducive to necessary development pursuits.

Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has co-sponsored a number of resolutions in these areas. In particular, we would like to commend to the Committee draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.24 under item 52, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia", introduced by Pakistan earlier this afternoon.

South Asia is a vast region that contains a billion people, one-fifth of humanity. The problems of our peoples are many and varied. We require a regional ambiance of peace to concentrate on obtaining for our peoples a more acceptable quality of life. My delegation does not believe that involvement in a nuclear arms race redounds to our benefit. Our intellectual and technological resources must be more fruitfully utilized.

Bangladesh will support similar resolutions with regard to other regions.

Endorsement of draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.24 is a logical corollary of our foreign policy objectives. I am confident that I share this perception with an overwhelming majority of delegations - perhaps all.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 31st meeting on 3 November, we will begin taking decisions on the draft resolutions concerning the disarmament agenda items on Monday, 9 November. The Committee will begin the process of taking decisions on draft resolutions relating to the first cluster of items listed in the programme which was suggested by the Chair. I might add that it is my intention to have us take up the various clusters of items one after the other. As we finish taking decisions on one group, we shall pass on to the next. I shall therefore not always be in a position to tell you far in advance which clusters will be considered by the Committee. However, as far as possible, I shall endeavour to let you know which clusters will be considered at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.