



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 101

### **Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session**

#### **Report of the First Committee**

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Heidar Ali **Balouji** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 September 2023, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled:

“Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

“(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

“(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission”

and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2023, the First Committee decided to conduct its work in three phases. The first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 90 to 106, as well as a general debate on the working methods of the Committee and programme planning, namely items 120 and 135; the second phase would be dedicated to thematic discussions; and the third phase would be for action on all draft proposals.

3. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and from 9 to 11 October, the Committee held its general debate on items 90 to 106. At its 10th meeting, on 12 October, the Committee also held its general debate on items 120 and 135. On 13 October, at its 11th meeting, the Committee held exchanges with the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament nominated by regional groups. The Committee also held 14 meetings (11th to 24th), on 13, from 16 to 20 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions and decisions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and



decisions at its 25th to 30th meetings, on 27 October and from 30 October to 3 November.<sup>1</sup>

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/78/27](#));
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters ([A/78/287](#));
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([A/78/163](#)).

## **II. Consideration of proposals**

### **A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.58](#)**

5. On 12 October, the delegation of Hungary submitted a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” ([A/C.1/78/L.58](#)).

6. At its 29th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.58](#) without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

### **B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.38](#)**

7. On 10 October, the delegation of Kazakhstan submitted a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission” ([A/C.1/78/L.38](#)).

8. At its 29th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.38](#) without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

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<sup>1</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/78/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.26](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.27](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.28](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.29](#) and [A/C.1/78/PV.30](#).

### III. Recommendations of the First Committee

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

#### **Draft resolution I** **Report of the Conference on Disarmament**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Conference on Disarmament,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [77/89](#) of 7 December 2022,

*Convinced* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

*Recognizing* the addresses of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, and referring to their various expressions of support for and concern about the endeavours of the Conference and calls for the Conference to commence negotiations without delay to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

*Recognizing also* the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and emphasizing the importance of effective multilateralism in the context of the changing international climate,

*Noting with renewed concern* that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2023 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work by means of negotiations or agree to a programme of work, although the Conference did hold substantive thematic discussions on its agenda items,

*Recalling*, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of priority issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

*Welcoming* the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to implementing the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

*Underlining* the need for continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as among the successive Presidents of the Conference,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts and contributions made at the 2023 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda,

*Reaffirming* the importance of multilateralism and the principle of inclusivity in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and noting with regret that the latter has not always been sufficiently ensured,<sup>2</sup> while recalling in this regard the rules of procedure of the Conference,

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/78/27).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

*Recognizing* the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;
2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2023 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse of more than two decades, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;
3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2024 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,<sup>3</sup> as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;
4. *Encourages* the current President and the incoming President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations on the activities of the Conference in fulfilling its mandate during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;
5. *Requests* the current President and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the States members of the Conference in the effort to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2024 session;
6. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2024 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;
7. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to undertake efforts to ensure inclusivity and multilateralism in its work, including through participation at its sessions, in accordance with its rules of procedure;<sup>4</sup>
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;
9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on its work;
10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

<sup>4</sup> CD/8/Rev.10, paras. 32–36.

## Draft resolution II

### Report of the Disarmament Commission

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Disarmament Commission,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions [47/54](#) A of 9 December 1992, [47/54](#) G of 8 April 1993, [48/77](#) A of 16 December 1993, [49/77](#) A of 15 December 1994, [50/72](#) D of 12 December 1995, [51/47](#) B of 10 December 1996, [52/40](#) B of 9 December 1997, [53/79](#) A of 4 December 1998, [54/56](#) A of 1 December 1999, [55/35](#) C of 20 November 2000, [56/26](#) A of 29 November 2001, [57/95](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/67](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/105](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/91](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/98](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/54](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/83](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/65](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/86](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/60](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/71](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/63](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/77](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/68](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/82](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/66](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/82](#) of 5 December 2018 and [77/90](#) of 7 December 2022, and its decisions 74/511 of 12 December 2019, 74/546 of 2 April 2020, 75/519 A of 7 December 2020, 75/519 B of 25 March 2021 and 76/518 of 6 December 2021,

*Considering* the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

*Recalling in particular* General Assembly resolution [45/62](#) B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,<sup>2</sup> Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution [61/98](#), which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>3</sup>

*Emphasizing once again* the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the item entitled “Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42).*

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [44/119](#) C, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [S-10/2](#).

on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”, and endorses the text adopted thereon;<sup>4</sup>

3. *Notes with regret* that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution [37/78](#) H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its substantive session of 2024:

(a) [To be determined];

(b) [To be determined];

7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution [61/98](#), upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2024, namely from 1 to 19 April, and an organizational session at the beginning of 2024 before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2023 session,<sup>5</sup> together with all the official records of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2024 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42), annex.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/78/27).*

designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2024 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

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