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Agenda item 51

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia,  
Denmark, Finland, Japan, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Tunisia  
and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the danger of nuclear warfare remains a grave threat to the survival of mankind,

Convinced that the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, especially in those areas of the world where the maintenance of international peace and security is endangered, remains an important element in the efforts to avert nuclear warfare,

Recalling its resolution 31/189 D of 21 December 1976, in which the General Assembly requested the International Atomic Energy Agency to give special attention to its programme of work in the non-proliferation area and to give careful consideration to all relevant suggestions aiming at strengthening the safeguards régime that have been presented to the Agency (including the communication from the Government of Finland reproduced in document A/C.1/31/6) and to report on the progress of its work on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session,

Noting the annual report for 1976 of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/32/158),

Recalling also its resolution 31/75 of 10 December 1976 on the implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the recommendations, proposals and statements made at the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which it commended the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Treaty,

Noting that more than 100 States are now parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Underlining the importance of the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons responding positively, by participating in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as provided in Article IV of the Treaty, to the proposals and preoccupation of the non-nuclear-weapon States in order to facilitate the adherence of all non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty,

Noting also the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world as a possible means of contributing to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons as recognized in its resolution 31/70 of 10 December 1976 on the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,

Recognizing the need to ensure, on a non-discriminatory basis in accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in keeping with the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a supply of nuclear technology, materials and facilities to meet the world's energy needs,

Noting the deliberations of the International Conference on Nuclear Power and Its Fuel Cycle at Salzburg in May 1977 held under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Conference on the Transfer of Nuclear Technology at Persepolis in April 1977, which confirmed the important and growing contribution that nuclear energy will make to meeting the energy needs of all countries, including the developing countries,

Noting also that the organizing conference held in Washington in October 1977 to initiate an international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation recognized that nuclear energy should be made widely available for peaceful purposes, that effective measures can and should be taken at the national level and through international agreements to minimize the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and that the evaluation would not jeopardize the respective fuel cycle policies or international co-operation agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that agreed safeguard measures are applied,

Anxious that the accelerated spread and development of nuclear technology should not increase the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and convinced that these two objectives are not contradictory,

Underlining again the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting the contribution of nuclear energy to economic progress, bearing in mind the special needs of developing countries, and in implementing safeguards in the interest of non-proliferation,

Noting that the International Atomic Energy Agency has made further progress in its safeguards activities by increasing its preparedness to reach with States which are not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, if they so desire, universal and non-discriminatory safeguards agreements no less effective than those concluded by the International Atomic Energy Agency with States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by keeping under scrutiny the strengthening of its safeguards, by completing this year a study on the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres and by presenting a draft convention for physical protection of nuclear materials,

Determined that similar progress could be made in exploring possibilities of increased assistance to the developing areas of the world,

1. Urgently calls for determined efforts by all nuclear-weapon States:

- (a) To bring about the cessation of the nuclear arms race;
- (b) To undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament;
- (c) To find an early solution to the remaining problems in reaching agreement to discontinue all test explosions of nuclear weapons as a step towards the realization of these objectives;

2. Emphasizes in this connexion the particular responsibility of those nuclear-weapon States that have already accepted international obligations, i.e. in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the discontinuance of nuclear-weapon tests and notes as encouraging the recent efforts under way towards these ends;

3. Underlines the importance of determined efforts especially by the nuclear-weapon States to ensure the security of non-nuclear weapon States;

4. Reaffirms that all States have the right, as provided for, inter alia, in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under effective and non-discriminatory safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and underlines the importance of increased efforts in this field, particularly for the needs of the developing countries and areas;

5. Recognizes the importance of technical assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the developing countries and areas of the world within an effective and comprehensive safeguards system, and emphasizes the urgent need of common efforts towards an essential increase of this assistance;

6. Urges States that as yet have not adhered to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the first instance, to do so at an early date or, at a minimum, accept other arrangements involving the application of safeguards to their complete nuclear fuel cycle, that would provide satisfactory assurances to the international community against the dangers of proliferation while guaranteeing to the States concerned unhindered and non-discriminatory access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy;

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7. Emphasizes the importance of common efforts to study satisfactory arrangements for adequate supply of nuclear fuels and other materials and facilities necessary to efficient implementation and operation of national nuclear power programmes without jeopardizing the respective fuel cycle policies or international co-operation agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that agreed safeguard measures are applied;

8. Solemnly affirms the following principles:

- (i) States should not convert civil nuclear materials or facilities to the production of nuclear weapons;
- (ii) All States have the right, in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality, to develop their programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear technology for economic and social developments in conformity with their priorities, interests and needs and should have, without discrimination, access to, and be free to acquire technology and materials for the peaceful use of nuclear energy under effective and non-discriminatory safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

9. Expresses its strong support for the International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to increase the effectiveness of its safeguards system in order to ensure that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

10. Recognizes the need to adequately ensure the physical protection of nuclear materials, facilities and transports;

11. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue the consideration of reaching an international agreement for such protection;

12. Expresses its support for the continuation of the studies by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the question of multinational fuel cycle centres and an international régime for plutonium management as possible means to promote the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the interests of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

13. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to report on the progress of its work on these questions to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

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