



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2013

Original: English

Sixty-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

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I. Introduction

1. 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”

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, [38/183](#) O of 20 December 1983, [39/148](#) H of 17 December 1984, [65/85](#) and [65/86](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/59](#) and [66/60](#) of 2 December 2011 and [67/71](#) and [67/72](#) of 3 December 2012.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2013, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 107. From 7 to 11 and on 14 and 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items and had an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see [A/C.1/68/PV.3-9](#)). The Committee also held 12 meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 30 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament, and with independent experts (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-21](#)). At the



10th to 25th meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 31 October, and on 1, 4 and 5 November, draft resolutions were introduced and considered (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-25](#)). The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 22nd to 25th meetings, on 31 October and on 1, 4 and 5 November (see [A/C.1/68/PV.22-25](#)).

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

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/68/27](#));
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2013 ([A/68/42](#));
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters ([A/68/206](#));
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on research, training and library services ([A/68/485](#));
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([A/68/182](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.5](#)

5. At the 12th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Malta, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission” ([A/C.1/68/L.5](#)).

6. At its 23rd meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.5](#) without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.27](#)

7. At the 16th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” ([A/C.1/68/L.27](#)).

8. At the 23rd meeting, on 1 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.27](#) without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

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

Draft resolution I **Report of the Disarmament Commission**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,¹

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 and [67/71](#) of 3 December 2012,

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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;¹
2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision [52/492](#) of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;
3. *Recalls* that, in its resolution [61/98](#), the General Assembly adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Disarmament Commission;
4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;
5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
6. *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,² 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

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/68/42).*

² Resolution S-10/2.

account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;³

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2014:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2014, namely from 7 to 25 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,⁴ together with all the official records of the sixty-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. *Also 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;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-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”.

³ [A/CN.10/137](#).

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/68/27)*.

Draft resolution II

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,¹

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

Recognizing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support and concern for the endeavours of the Conference and as calls for the Conference to immediately commence negotiations 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 considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament in the 2013 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, including the revised draft decision of 11 February 2013 submitted for adoption and the draft decisions circulated on 21 June and 13 August 2013, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, including negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/72](#) of 3 December 2012, or in agreeing on and implementing a programme of work,

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

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2013 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made during the 2013 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda and, in addition, on the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Emphasizing the importance of 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 *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/68/27).*

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2014 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament during its 2013 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, 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 of well over a decade by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2014 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,² as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish an informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation,³ appreciates the efforts that led to its submission and adoption, and takes note of the provisions of that decision;

5. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations 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;

6. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, in its 2014 session;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

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 sixty-ninth session a report on its work;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-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".

² Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

³ Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/68/27)*, para. 18.