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Forty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 66 (a)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION:
REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist
Republic, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, German
Democratic Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Nigeria, Romania,
Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the annual report of the Disarmament Commission, 1/

Emphasizing again the importance of an effective follow-up to the relevant recommendations and decisions contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Taking into account the relevant sections of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ the second special session devoted to disarmament,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/44/42).

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9-13, document A/S-12/32.

Also taking into account widespread views expressed during the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

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 the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions of the tenth special session,

Recalling its resolutions 33/71 H of 14 December 1978, 34/83 H of 11 December 1979, 35/152 F of 12 December 1980, 36/92 B of 9 December 1981, 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, 38/183 E of 20 December 1983, 39/148 R of 17 December 1984, 40/152 F of 16 December 1985, 41/86 E of 4 December 1986, 42/42 G of 30 November 1987 and 43/78 A of 7 December 1988,

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/
2. Notes that the Disarmament Commission has yet to conclude its consideration of some items on its agenda, but notes also with appreciation the progress achieved on some of these;
3. Recalls the role 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;
4. Stresses the importance for the Disarmament Commission to work on the basis of a relevant agenda of disarmament topics, thereby enabling the Commission to concentrate its efforts and thus optimize its progress on specific subjects in accordance with resolution 37/78 H;
5. Notes that consultations have been held on the question of ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission in the field of disarmament;
6. Commends the fact that as a result of the above-mentioned consultations, the measures with respect to the ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission have been agreed, as annexed;
7. 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 resolution 37/78 H, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations, at its 1990 substantive session, on the outstanding items on its agenda, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly as well as the results of its 1989 substantive session;

8. Also requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1990 and to submit a substantive report, containing specific recommendations on the items included in its agenda, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth 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 forty-fourth 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 Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services to this end;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

ANNEX

Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission

1. Mandate

The Disarmament Commission reaffirms its mandate contained in paragraph 118 (a) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament (hereinafter referred to as "Final Document").

2. Decision-making method

The decision-making method described in paragraph 118 (b) of the Final Document should be maintained.

3. Agenda items

1. The Disarmament Commission could have a general agenda and a working agenda for each substantive session. The working agenda should be agreed at the Commission's organizational session.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27).

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2. For each session, the working agenda should be limited to a maximum of four substantive items for in-depth consideration.

3. From 1991, no subject should, in principle, be maintained on the working agenda for more than three consecutive years. At each session, the Commission should review, for possible reconsideration, any subject that had been suspended.

4. If no agreement can be reached on a specific agenda item, the report of the Commission should contain a joint statement or a Chairman's summary of the proceedings to reflect views or positions of different delegations, particularly in the case of those agenda items to be suspended for a period of time.

5. At its 1990 session, the Commission should make every effort to conclude all its agenda items, except the new substantive items.

4. Subsidiary bodies

1. At each annual session, the Disarmament Commission should not establish more than four subsidiary bodies for its substantive agenda items. The allocation of the agenda items to the four subsidiary bodies and the appointment of chairmen for these subsidiary bodies should be decided at the organizational session of the Commission, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

2. The chairmanship of subsidiary bodies should, in principle, be rotated each year; however, at its organizational session, the Commission may decide to extend the term of office of any chairman in the interest of effective work and the speedy conclusion of an item.

5. Duration of the substantive session

1. The Disarmament Commission should meet for a period not exceeding four weeks for in-depth deliberations on substantive items.

2. The duration of each substantive session, in accordance with the established practice, should be flexible and could be shortened. In order to utilize efficiently the conference-servicing resources available, the Commission should decide the duration of each substantive session at its organizational session.

6. Organization of work of the session

1. Each session may have a general debate on agenda items in the plenary meetings, not exceeding three days' duration.

2. Except in the case of new items, there should be no general exchange of views in the subsidiary bodies. The general exchange of views on new items should not exceed two meetings.

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3. Subsidiary bodies could begin their work in parallel with the general exchange of views in the plenary meetings.

4. No more than two official meetings should be held simultaneously. This restriction, however, would not apply to informal consultations.

5. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be provided with full meeting services.

6. All the officers of the Commission should be elected at its organizational session.

7. Consultations

The Chairman of the Disarmament Commission should conduct consultations on matters relating to the work of the Commission, in particular on its working agenda, year round, especially during the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly.
