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New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
(Vice-Chairman)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Mashhadi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 TO 69 AND 151 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform members of the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1, Samoa; A/C.1/44/L.41 and L.46, Czechoslovakia; A/C.1/44/L.36, Benin, the Central African Republic and Costa Rica; A/C.1/44/L.26/Rev.1, Belgium and Poland.

The CHAIRMAN: As announced yesterday morning, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1, L.58/Rev.2, in cluster 12, and A/C.1/44/L.18 and L.22/Rev.1, in cluster 16.

Since no delegations wish to introduce draft resolutions, to make statements other than explanations of vote, or to explain their vote before voting, the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1.

I call upon the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of sponsors.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1, entitled "Objective information on military matters", was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Committee's 29th meeting, on 7 November 1989. The draft resolution has 31 sponsors: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Samoa,

(Mr. Kheradi)

Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia

Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15.Rev.1 was adopted by 110 votes to none, with 15 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.58/Rev.2 entitled "Contribution of confidence- and security-building measures to international peace and security". The draft resolution has 31 sponsors and was introduced by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany at the 30th meeting of the First Committee, on 7 November 1989.

I now call on the Secretary to read the list of sponsors.

The SECRETARY: The list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.58/Rev.2 is as follows: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Gabon, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Togo, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.58/Rev.2 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. SOOD (India): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1, "Objective information on military matters". My delegation abstained in the voting on the draft resolution. My delegation firmly believes that progress in disarmament is possible primarily through exercise of political will. In recent years we have been witness to certain examples offered, most recently in the negotiations in Vienna. We do not subscribe to the belief that lack of progress can be attributed to lack of information on military matters or to the absence of a universally acceptable system of standardized reporting of military expenditure.

Mr. DONOWAKI (Japan): Japan fully shares the views expressed in draft resolution L.58, just adopted by consensus, in which the importance of confidence-building in the bilateral, regional and global context is stressed. The resolution expects the ongoing Vienna negotiations to achieve a new set of mutually complementary confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe and invites all other States to consider the possible introduction of similar measures in their particular regions.

Japan whole-heartedly welcomes and strongly admires the progress being made by the 35 European States in the field of confidence-building measures, which demonstrates the level of sophistication and wisdom in overcoming confrontation and enhancing not only regional but also global security.

One of the lessons to be learned from the process of disarmament in Europe is the fact that such a process is only part of the larger process of an across-the-board dialogue. It became possible only with the development of mutual confidence and trust among the European States, which in turn had to be fostered over the years through repeated contacts among top-level leaders as well as numerous energetic negotiations at various working levels.

In our efforts to bring about disarmament in any particular region we must first give serious thought, not only in abstract but also in specific terms, to what concrete actions will be necessary in order to reduce and eliminate mutual distrust among the nations concerned. For example, in Asia there still remain, unfortunately, a number of issues and sources of tension, such as territorial issues and regional conflicts. Therefore we ought first to make steady efforts to enhance mutual confidence among the nations concerned by solving those problems and conflicts one by one. It is through such efforts that we may bring about enhanced mutual confidence among nations in the region, which in turn would pave the way for serious consideration of confidence- and security-building measures.

Mr. DA COSTA e SILVA (Brazil): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution L.15/Rev.1, entitled "Objective of information on military matters", notwithstanding our considered view that such measures are of secondary relevance for regions which have very low rates of military spending and very low concentrations of armaments and armed forces, like Latin America.

The use of the international system for the reporting of military expenditures does not seem to my Government to have major significance inasmuch as it is not linked to any concrete disarmament measure. Nevertheless we support the text this year as an acknowledgement of the efforts of the sponsors to solve their past differences and present a common draft which we hope will help the United Nations Conference on Disarmament to address this issue in a constructive way at its 1990 session.

Mr. AL MOSAWI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation abstained on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.15/Rev.1 because it overlooks the primary matters and concentrates on the secondary ones. The basic premise in confidence-building measures is the declaration and implementation of the principle of mutual respect in international relations and renunciation of the use or threat of the use of force and the policies of hegemony, racism and expansionism. Unfortunately these were not reflected in the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolutions in cluster 16, beginning with draft decision A/C.1/44/L.18. The sponsors of the draft decision, entitled "International co-operation for disarmament", have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. It has four sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia at the 30th meeting of the First Committee, on 7 November 1989. The sponsors are Czechoslovakia, Mexico, New Zealand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Draft decision A/C.1/44/L.18 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament".

(The Chairman)

The sponsors of the draft resolution are Cameroon, Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The text was introduced by the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 27th meeting of the First Committee, on 6 November 1989.

I now call on the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, who wishes to make a statement on the draft resolution.

Mr. OGRYZKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): On 6 November, on behalf of the delegations of Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, and my own, I had the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22. Consultations were subsequently held on the text of the draft resolution. We are grateful to those delegations that made constructive contributions and thus improved the text.

As a result of the consultations, the sponsors made some changes in the fourth paragraph of the preamble and in operative paragraph 2. In a spirit of compromise and wishing to take all approaches to the problem into account, the sponsors deleted the fourth preambular paragraph and reworded operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22.

Joint efforts have led to a balanced revised text, now before us in draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1. Its main objective is to contribute to the achievement of practical measures in the field of disarmament, an objective which is of interest to all States represented here. In their efforts, the sponsors strove to show as much flexibility as possible and to work out a text that would be acceptable to all delegations.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1. A recorded vote has been requested.



A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1 was adopted by 105 votes to 1, with 27 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. RIDER (New Zealand): I would like to explain New Zealand's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1, on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament.

After careful consideration, New Zealand decided to vote in favour of the draft resolution. In doing so, however, we have some reservations on it. New Zealand has consulted closely with the sponsors of the draft resolution and is pleased to recall that, while not all of our recommendations were incorporated, there have been some useful changes. In that regard, we note that there have been

(Mr. Rider, New Zealand)

a number of improvements in the preamble. The wording of operative paragraph 1 has also been improved, and paragraph 2 acknowledges the value of adopting disarmament measures without a vote. Furthermore, the consideration of that item will now be on a biennial basis.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts made by the Ukrainian delegation to accommodate the views of a number of delegations. Accordingly, in spite of our reservations about the draft resolution, we decided to vote in favour of it.

Mr. REESE (Australia): Australia would like to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament".

We recognize that changes were made to last year's text so that some of our difficulties with the more absolute text have been eased, but we still do not see value in reporting to the Secretary-General on ways and means to enhance the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. Nor do we think it a good use of resources to require the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on that, particularly when many of the resolutions themselves call for the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at a subsequent session.

While Australia supports much of the philosophical approach of the draft resolution - that is, the value of a consensus approach to disarmament issues - we do not see particular value in propagating that in the form taken in draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.22/Rev.1

The CHAIRMAN: For tomorrow, we will consider and take action on draft resolutions in cluster 5 - A/C.1/44/L.40/Rev.1; in cluster 16 - A/C.1/44/L.2/Rev.1, A/C.1/44/L.29, A/C.1/44/L.30 and A/C.1/44/L.35; and in cluster 7 - A/C.1/44/L.21.