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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

China: draft resolution

Conventional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war as expressed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ and particularly its paragraph 81, which provides that, together with negotiations on nuclear disarmament measures, the limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons should be resolutely pursued within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament, and which stresses that States with the largest military arsenals have a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional armaments reductions,

Also recalling that in the same document it is stated, inter alia, that priorities in disarmament negotiations shall be: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons; conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects; and reduction of armed forces, and that it stresses that nothing should preclude States from conducting negotiations on all priority items concurrently,

Further recalling that in the same document it is stated that effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war have the highest

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

priority, and that real progress in the field of nuclear disarmament could create an atmosphere conducive to progress in conventional disarmament on a world-wide basis,

Aware of the dangers to world peace and security originating from, and the loss in human life and property caused by, wars and conflicts fought with conventional weapons, as well as of their possible escalation into a nuclear war in regions with a high concentration of conventional and nuclear weapons,

Also aware that with the advance in science and technology, conventional weapons tend to become increasingly lethal and destructive and that conventional armaments consume large amounts of resources,

Believing that resources released through disarmament, including conventional disarmament, can be used for the social and economic development of people of all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Noting with satisfaction that the ongoing conventional disarmament negotiations in Europe have achieved progress,

Also noting with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission concluded at its 1990 session its recent consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament,

Bearing in mind its resolution 36/97 A of 9 December 1981 and the Study on Conventional Disarmament 2/ conducted in accordance with that resolution, as well as its resolutions 41/59 C and 41/59 G of 3 December 1986, 42/38 E and 42/38 G of 30 November 1987, 43/75 D and 43/75 F of 7 December 1988 and 44/116 C and 44/116 F of 15 December 1989,

Bearing in mind also the efforts made to promote conventional disarmament and the related proposals and suggestions, as well as the initiatives taken by various countries in this regard,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the efforts aimed at resolutely pursuing the limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament;

2. Believes that the military forces of all countries should not be used other than for the purpose of self-defence;

3. Welcomes the continued intensive negotiation on conventional armaments and the progress achieved therein by the countries with the largest military arsenals, which bear a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional arms reductions, and by the States members of the two major military alliances, and urges them to make further progress towards the early establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional armaments and forces, the

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IX.1.

achievement of increased security at lower levels of forces and the elimination of the capability for surprise attack and large-scale offensive action in Europe, a region with the largest concentration of armaments and forces in the world;

4. Encourages and calls upon all States, while taking into account the need to protect security and maintain necessary defensive capabilities, to intensify their efforts and take, either on their own or by agreement, appropriate steps in the field of conventional disarmament to promote progress in conventional disarmament, to enhance peace and security in their regions as well as globally and to contribute to overall progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament;

5. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Disarmament Commission at its 1990 substantive session on issues related to conventional disarmament, 3/ and recommends that States take them into due consideration in their efforts to promote progress in conventional disarmament;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament".

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/45/42), para. 34.