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Chairman: Mr. ALATAS (Indonesia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

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CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION UPON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

Mr. BUTLER (Australia): The purpose of my statement today is to introduce two draft resolutions, one on disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in document A/C.1/40/L.70, and the other on the notification of nuclear tests, A/C.1/40/L.71.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.70, at present sponsored by Cameroon, Fiji and Greece, is being submitted specifically on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of this Organization. The sponsors consider it appropriate that this important event should be marked by a resolution that addresses one of our fundamental shared concerns, that is, the maintenance of international peace and security. If the draft resolution has one central assertion, it is that the maintenance of international peace and security, to which the Charter of our Organization is so directly dedicated, requires the earnest - and, hopefully, successful - pursuit of disarmament.

The draft resolution points to the critical relationship that is described in the Charter between those two concerns, and it makes clear that our wider human, social and political goals require the maintenance of peace and, for that purpose in today's world, disarmament.

In its operative paragraphs, the draft resolution declares the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the achievement of certain specific disarmament agreements. It also re-emphasizes the irreducible importance of all States conducting their international relations in terms of the basic principles of the Charter. Above all, it calls upon all States to redouble their efforts to achieve meaningful disarmament and arms control measures. In this sense, the draft

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resolution is consistent with the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The draft resolution is a simple one, but we believe it is one which addresses issues of great importance to us all. We understand that there is a desire for further consultations on the draft resolution, and we accept that. I want to make that clear: we are prepared to enter into further consultations on the draft resolution, and we hope to be able to do so in the very near future.

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.71 on the notification of nuclear tests on behalf of the delegations of Fiji, Ireland, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, and I am now authorized to add to that list the delegation of Sweden.

This draft resolution is also a simple one, but it deals with an issue of great importance to all of us. Our international community is committed to an end to all nuclear testing. We hope that a treaty to that effect can be brought into existence as soon as possible.

In the meantime, however, we believe that, pending the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, the peoples of the world have a right to a full and open account from the States concerned of all nuclear explosions conducted by them. We believe, too, that such a full and open account would contribute to the improvement of independent monitoring capabilities for a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Accordingly, this draft resolution calls upon the States concerned to provide to the Secretary-General of the United Nations such a full and open account of all nuclear tests conducted by them. We then ask the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly each year a register of the information thus provided.

Some may view this as an unusual step, and perhaps it is. But surely no one would seek to characterize nuclear testing as anything other than a quite significant - and in that sense unusual - activity.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

It is not unusual for significant and dangerous activities to be the subject of public registration or notification. This happens in our world community on a widespread basis where, for example, dangerous substances or, alternatively, valuable materials are concerned. So what we are asking here is that there be just such simple notification.

Some might suggest that any measures which fall short of a comprehensive test-ban treaty as such, no matter how well intended, could ironically serve to delay such a treaty from coming into existence. I would vigorously reject that argument in this particular case. What we propose in no way detracts from the fundamental need for a comprehensive test-ban treaty, which is in fact reiterated in our draft resolution.

We would like to think that the opposite is the case with the higher degree of transparency and public awareness that this system of notification of nuclear tests would involve. We hope it will assist us in our drive towards a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

I believe it is true, and that it has occurred to many of us, that, regrettably, the world and general public opinion within the world may have become somewhat inured to nuclear testing. If this is true, I suspect it is because the media have become tired of reporting repeatedly an event which happens monotonously. It does happen monotonously: nuclear testing does happen monotonously and repeatedly. But that should not mean it has become boring. We should relieve that potential boredom, because the subject at issue is serious and, at the bottom of it all, people do have a right to know when such explosions are conducted.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

I repeat: we are all committed to an end to nuclear testing, but in the meantime let us be in a position to have on the public record the real nature and extent of such testing. Our hope is that this draft resolution will receive widespread and firm support in the Assembly, including support from States which conduct nuclear tests.

Mr. WAN CHAT KWONG (Mauritius): I have asked to speak in order to introduce, on behalf of the group of African States, three draft resolutions: A/C.1/40/L.38 and A/C.1/40/L.40 under agenda item 59, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa"; and A/C.1/40/L.39 under agenda item 61 (a), entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly: World Disarmament Campaign".

The first two draft resolutions - A/C.1/40/L.38 and A/C.1/40/L.40 - entitled, respectively, "Implementation of the Declaration" and "Nuclear capability of South Africa", are identical, except for the usual updating where appropriate, to the two texts adopted by the General Assembly on the same subject at its last session, and therefore do not require much explanation.

The objectives of the drafts are clear. They are, inter alia: to achieve the denuclearization of the African continent, first called for by the Heads of State or Government of Member States of the Organization of African Unity more than 20 years ago; to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in the African continent, which would endanger the peace and security not only of Africa but also of the world community; and to frustrate attempts by the racist minority régime in South Africa to acquire nuclear weapons which would serve no other purpose than the defence of its abhorrent system of apartheid.

We view with considerable anxiety South Africa's nuclear weapon capability, as clearly established by last year's report (A/39/470) by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and by the Secretary-General's earlier report (A/35/402), entitled "South Africa's plan and capability in the nuclear field". It definitely constitutes the principal obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. We note with regret that South Africa's nuclear capability has been achieved with the direct or indirect collaboration of a certain number of Member States in spite of the international

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condemnation of the racist régime's policy of apartheid, of internal repression and of aggression against its neighbours.

Most of Africa is undergoing today a very difficult situation and needs all its available resources to overcome the prevailing economic crisis. It is therefore regrettable that, because of the threat posed by the racist régime in Pretoria, many African countries still have to divert much of their scarce resources to security needs. We therefore urge the Disarmament Commission, which unfortunately failed again this year to reach a consensus on this issue, to expedite consideration of the matter.

We also request the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility and obligations by taking measures to prevent South Africa's further development of its nuclear-weapon capability. We call upon all States to end all direct or indirect collaboration with the South African régime in the military-nuclear field which could contribute in any manner to that end. We continue to demand that the racist régime submit its nuclear activities to international scrutiny.

I should like to point out a small error which has slipped into draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.38. In the first preambular paragraph, in the last line the year should read "1964" instead of "1974".

We hope that both draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.38 and draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.40 will receive the full support of this Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.39, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa", embodies, among other things, two important considerations in the quest for arms limitation and disarmament. First, it is aimed at giving practical meaning to the concept of a regional approach to arms limitation and disarmament, especially in the conventional field. Secondly, it seeks to strengthen co-operation between the United Nations and regional organizations and regional initiatives, especially since such co-operation, as

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recognized under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, constitutes a potentially valuable instrument in efforts toward the maintenance of international peace and security. The peaceful resolution of conflicts in the African region would help promote peaceful and constructive relations among African States and thus contribute to enhancing prospects for arms reduction and disarmament in the region and beyond.

With its 40-year-old record of experience and capabilities in the field of international peace and security, the United Nations should, upon the request of the regional countries concerned, assist regional initiatives to achieve regional peace and security. Step by step, such regional efforts would lead to world-wide peace and security.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.39 is straightforward and largely procedural. It evolves essentially from General Assembly resolution 39/63 J, adopted by the Assembly by consensus last December, at the thirty-ninth session. As will be recalled, that resolution, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to such Member States in the regions concerned as might request it with a view to establishing regional and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions which Member States might make to that end.

Subsequently, as pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/40/443/Add.1, Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) requested the United Nations Secretary-General to establish such a regional office in Africa to promote the objectives of peace and disarmament in the region. At the twenty-first OAU Summit Conference, held in July this year, African Heads of State or Government adopted resolution AHG/Res.138 to that effect; and in August, at the Ministerial Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and

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Development in Africa, OAU Ministers adopted the Lomé Declaration and Programme of Action - later endorsed at the non-aligned ministerial meeting in September - which also called for a regional centre in Africa.

By operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.39, the General Assembly would decide to establish as of 1 January 1986 the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, within the framework of the Secretariat and on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. At least in the initial phase, as pointed out in the Secretary-General's report in document A/40/443/Add.1, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide overall institutional co-ordination for the work of the Centre within the framework of the Secretariat, taking into account all relevant units of the Secretariat and of the United Nations system as a whole - particularly those concerned with disarmament, peace and security. The Centre's insitutional structure would thus help to ensure its administrative viability and its credibility. We stress the need, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report, to make the maximum possible use of existing resources to meet the requirements of the Centre. At the same time, we call upon Member States to make voluntary contributions to supplement these resources, in particular to meet the Centre's operational requirements, which would include policy-oriented research and studies as well as regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign.

Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution outlines the broad functions of the Centre. The other operative paragraphs are self-explanatory.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.39 wish to commend it to the First Committee for adoption by consensus.

Mr. DJOKIC (Yugoslavia): I have the honour to introduce two draft resolutions, one on the report of the Conference on Disarmament, contained in document A/C.1/40/L.57, and the other on the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, contained in document A/C.1/40/L.59.

With regard to the first, on the report of the Conference on Disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament also this year has not been able to work out a single draft agreement on disarmament.

In the meantime, there has been a considerable increase in weapons arsenals, particularly nuclear arsenals. Various kinds of increasingly sophisticated weapons are being developed and the danger of the outbreak of nuclear war has therefore increased. Although the bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the complex of nuclear and space arms have started in Geneva, we have yet to see results.

It is regrettable that the Conference has not even started substantive negotiations on halting the nuclear-arms race and on nuclear disarmament, on measures for the prevention of nuclear war and on the treaty on a nuclear-weapon test ban.

The international community has on many occasions warned that such a state of affairs is not acceptable and that the way out is to be found in negotiations on the launching of genuine disarmament. The appeal of the great majority of countries to halt the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, has never been more resolute than it is today. Negotiations are a necessity imposed by the dangerous reality, and the Conference on Disarmament has a very important role to play in such negotiations.

We note with satisfaction that within the Conference on Disarmament this year an Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space has been

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established. We hope that next year the Conference will resume without any delay negotiations with the aim of elaborating an agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Also, while noting with satisfaction that there has been some progress in the negotiations on the elaboration of a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, we cannot but urge all members of the Conference to speed up negotiations and produce an early draft convention on this issue.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.57 - Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia - would like strongly to stress once again that it is unacceptable to prevent the Conference from conducting negotiations on the most important issues of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

I should like to conclude my statement on introducing this draft resolution by expressing the conviction of the sponsors that it will meet with the broadest possible support.

I shall now introduce the draft resolution on the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in document A/C.1/40/L.59.

Special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament are an expression of the common desire and effort of Member States to broaden and enrich the international consensus reached at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The two special sessions held so far are the best evidence that the United Nations is an irreplaceable forum for the active participation of all Member States in the further elaboration of the strategy of the international community in the field of disarmament.

(Mr. Djokic, Yugoslavia)

The non-aligned countries launched the initiative for the convening of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in the belief that only under the auspices of the United Nations could the ways of achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control be defined. The convening of the third special session of the General Assembly on disarmament is the continuation of that commitment.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.59 is procedural in nature. It underlines the resolve of the General Assembly to contribute to the furthering and broadening of positive processes initiated through the laying down of the foundations of an international strategy in the field of disarmament by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The draft resolution, inter alia, recalls the decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session to convene the third special session on disarmament not later than 1988. The draft resolution also envisages that the General Assembly will, at its forty-first session, set the date of the third special session and establish the preparatory committee for the third special session.

The group of sponsors - Algeria, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia - wishes to express its conviction that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, like all previous General Assembly resolutions relating to special sessions devoted to disarmament.

Mr. TINCA (Romania): In my statement today, I should like to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.30 on the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security". The draft resolution is meant to trigger the process of updating the present report of the Secretary-General on that question.

(Mr. Tinca, Romania)

The report on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects was first completed in 1972 and was subsequently updated in 1977 and 1982. The value of this report, which was a source of reference for the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, is confirmed by the Final Document of that special session itself which, in paragraph 93 (c) requests the Secretary-General periodically to submit reports to the General Assembly on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security.

Even this legal basis would be sufficient to sustain the updating of the report. But there are other reasons which bestow an acute sense of urgency on this undertaking.

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As my delegation and many others have repeatedly stated, the peoples of the world, no matter where they live, should not be lulled by the illusion of being able to live peacefully while the arms race continues and immense material and human resources are being squandered on what are, to say the least, unproductive goals. That statement is perhaps most relevant today, when opinion seems to suggest that weapons are inoffensive as long as they are not used. Leaving aside the theoretical ground of that assertion, which seems to be very slim, almost every fact of life shows that bombs, even if they do not actually explode, have disruptive effects on all fields of social life today.

It is not our intention to discuss now the economic and social consequences of the arms race - we devoted one of our statements in the general debate to that subject - but I cannot help mentioning that the escalation in the production, acquisition and stockpiling of armaments - what we call the arms race - is a boundless waste of human, financial and material resources and one of the main factors that account for the present world economic crisis, which continues to worsen.

One major conclusion that can be drawn from our deliberations so far points to the fact that the cessation of the arms race, the implementation of effective disarmament measures and the reduction of military expenditure together constitute one of the fundamental problems of our time. The attainment of those goals not only would lead to the elimination of the risk of another world war that would have catastrophic consequences for all peoples but would be a basic premise for an urgent solution to the present economic and social difficulties throughout the world.

It is certainly not a coincidence that precisely in a period when the world is spending too much on armaments humanity is suffering the effects of an economic

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crisis of such proportions. It might be said that all the major effects of this dramatic phenomenon - recession, unemployment, inflation, budgetary and trade deficits - are inseparably linked to the hidden diversion of enormous resources from economic activity. Military expenditures have no favourable short-term or long-term effects on economic growth. They are necessary neither to preserve the technological basis of a nation's industry nor to correct trade imbalances and, far from solving problems of inflation and unemployment, sooner or later aggravate them.

The updating of the present edition of the report is particularly timely because today there is an overriding need for practical action to contain the arms race and proceed to negotiations on disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament. Like the previous editions, the new edition of the report will contribute to a better understanding of the internal structure of the arms race as a complex phenomenon, especially in its qualitative aspects. The technological advances foreseen for the forthcoming decades project the problem of the limitation of the arms race and disarmament in a completely different context, and the consequences of such a contingency command serious study.

The usefulness of the report is also highlighted by the new avenues of action now being explored by the United Nations, which fall within that same field or are even stimulated by a better knowledge of the economic and social consequences of the arms race. In that connection we have in mind the forthcoming Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which is called upon to discuss and bring together the practical modalities for reallocating the funds released through disarmament and the reduction of military spending to development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

(Mr. Tinca, Romania)

While the present edition of the report might serve as a background paper for the Conference and contribute to a better grasp of its subject, the new edition will certainly be a practical tool in supporting the follow-up of this important event.

At the same time there is every indication that, like the earlier editions, this new edition of the report will be an essential United Nations document, used and appreciated by scientists and workers in the media who look for a better understanding of the complex phenomenon of the arms race. At a time when the world public is taking a particularly keen interest in the problems of peace and disarmament, the report is intended to provide a source of objective, accurate information on the armaments situation and a motivation for practical action, based on a knowledge of the facts, in favour of resolute measures to put an end to the arms race and achieve disarmament.

Those are the main considerations which have guided the Romanian delegation in the elaboration of the draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.30) sponsored by the delegations of the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Rwanda, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, which are now joined by the delegations of Cuba and Greece.

As can be seen, the draft resolution is for the most part procedural in nature. The preambular part recalls the reasons which justify the updating of the report, among which are concern over the arms race and its effects, developments that have taken place in these fields since the last edition of the report, the need for all Governments and peoples to be kept abreast of the existing situation and the central role to be played by the United Nations in that matter. Reference is made to the fact that the updating of the report was anticipated by the General Assembly both in the Final Document of its first special session devoted to disarmament and in resolutions adopted on this item.

(Mr. Tinca, Romania)

In the operative part the Secretary-General is requested to bring the report up to date with the assistance of a group of qualified experts appointed by him and making appropriate use of the capabilities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in a consultative capacity. As in the past, all Governments, specialized agencies, international institutions and non-governmental and other organizations are invited to extend their co-operation to ensure that the updating of the report will be carried out in the most effective way. The draft resolution stipulates that the updated report should be submitted to the forty-second session of the General Assembly, in 1987.

We are convinced that by using the experience acquired during the elaboration of previous editions of the report the Secretary-General will find the most adequate ways to co-ordinate in the most efficient manner all factors likely to contribute to the success of this undertaking. It would no doubt be desirable to benefit from the services of some of those experts who have taken part in the elaboration of the previous versions of the report but, at the same time, the participation of new experts, with a balanced geographical representation in the group, might equally be needed. The expertise and the valuable contribution of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs would play a special role.

The draft resolution I have the honour to introduce is the outcome of lengthy consultations and its elaboration was prompted by the desire that the final text should command the general support which is necessary for its adoption by consensus. We are truly convinced that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.30 and the preparation of the new edition of the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the armaments race would be a signal contribution by the United Nations to the cause of disarmament.

Mr. ABDEL WAHAB (Egypt): It is my privilege to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. I do so on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Yugoslavia, as well as Egypt.

Some 20-odd years ago man's adventure in space started, with great prospects opening up before mankind. During these 28 years we have witnessed startling developments in space and space technology that have caused great concern as to our future and the future of mankind for generations to come. The statements made by my delegation in the general debate focused on the alarming danger of an arms race in outer space. From all our readings and knowledge of the developments in the exploration of outer space we believe that the danger of an arms race in outer space is more imminent today than it ever was before. Some of the new technology being used in outer space might jeopardize the 1967 outer space Treaty and would also run afoul of the limited test-ban Treaty.

We are aware of plans for the development of weapons and even unverifiable weapons systems that would result in outer space becoming an arena of conflict. The international community has shown and indeed has expressed its concern over the extension of the arms race into outer space. Indeed, the mere fact that the Committee has before it for consideration five draft resolutions on outer space is but a clear demonstration of the genuine concern of the international community.

My delegation has spoken at length on this issue, and I do not propose on this occasion to repeat the arguments in favour of preventing an arms race in outer space. The non-aligned countries in the Luanda Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries, as well as the Delhi Declaration of 28 January 1985, specified two major steps which required urgent attention in the field of disarmament. The first step was the prevention of an arms race in outer

(Mr. Abdel Wahab, Egypt)

space, and the second step was the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. At this juncture in time we are faced with a choice between co-operation and confrontation.

Last year after prolonged negotiations we were successful in adopting resolution 39/59, the only resolution adopted on this subject at last year's session of the General Assembly. My delegation considered that this in itself was a major achievement. It was consolidated in its belief by the fact that 150 Member States voted for the resolution, without a negative vote being cast. Accordingly it can be said that resolution 39/59 contained the basic considerations that have to be borne in mind in the efforts aimed at the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space. To our great pleasure the Conference on Disarmament was able to reach an agreement on a mandate for action on this item and established an Ad Hoc Committee which was in itself a tangible achievement and a source of pride which crowned our efforts last year. At the same time, the international community has witnessed in 1985 the resumption of bilateral negotiations between the two super-Powers about the arms race in outer space. We hope that these ongoing negotiations, as well as the coming meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, will bear fruit. With these ongoing bilateral negotiations it follows as a natural corollary that the Conference on Disarmament - the sole multilateral negotiation body - must also be seized of the subject within the framework of its Ad Hoc Committee with a view to negotiating a multilateral agreement or agreements on this important matter. Twelve months have now elapsed since resolution 39/59 was adopted, and since then international opinion has grown more alarmed about the danger of an arms race involving outer space. The Charter provision requesting States to refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations must now be extended to the area of outer space. Existing international legal instruments and commitments are becoming more and more

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ineffective to prevent what is sometimes called weaponization of outer space. Space weapons programmes and plans have been intensified and space technology has indeed reached a frightening point, making it imperative for the international community to act - and act it must - urgently to take further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. As Mr. Jasani of the International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm said,

"What is not generally appreciated is the extent and speed with which outer space has been put to military use by both super-Powers".

A year ago, as I have previously mentioned, there had been no bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on this subject. The Conference on Disarmament had not then succeeded in establishing an ad hoc committee. Happily in this regard, as we all know, the past year has seen a mild transformation of last year's bleak picture. Firstly, the two super-Powers resumed negotiations on the vital area of prevention of an arms race in outer space. Secondly, we are all aware of the constructive work done in the Ad Hoc Committee in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Yet, to maintain that such developments have in one way or another arrested or reversed the terrible phase in man's use of outer space is to err. We realize that space weaponry is extremely destabilizing and likely to trigger a nuclear war which both super-Powers are supposed to prevent. I need not elaborate on this concept to say that our determination is greater than ever to make every effort to ensure that effective measures must be taken, the necessary international negotiations held and an acceptable agreement or agreements reached.

Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68, which is before the Committee for consideration, is substantially similar to last year's resolution 39/59, with some modifications. Therefore I shall address only those new paragraphs in A/C.1/40/L.68. It has become necessary, for example, to update that resolution in

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recognition of the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee in the Conference on Disarmament in 1985 and also of the start of bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Such negotiations should be linked to negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. We have also had to stress the danger posed to mankind by an imminent arms race in space and the development of new weapons systems. We have also requested the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1986. In doing so, this paragraph conveys to the Conference on Disarmament the wish of the General Assembly that the Conference on Disarmament continue its meaningful handling of the question, leaving enough room for the Ad Hoc Committee itself to develop its own mandate and approach on a comprehensive basis.

Last year 150 Member States voted affirmatively for this resolution. My delegation is hopeful that this year all delegations will find it possible to support this draft resolution. We are convinced that there can be no limited arms race in outer space just as there can be no limited nuclear war. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.68 have done their utmost to secure the widest possible support for it in the Committee. The door is still open for every endeavour to converge and exert our efforts on one single resolution. Finally, as I stated in the general debate, my delegation hopes, as had happened in 1984, that there will be a single resolution on the most critical and topical among disarmament matters this year. Our draft resolution is submitted with full awareness that it can offer the Committee an effort to arrive at a consensus on specific action to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Mr. GROOT (Denmark): I have asked for the floor today in order to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/40/L.14, entitled "Study on conventional disarmament", under agenda item 68 (e).

Last year the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 39/151 C, which inter alia invited Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their views regarding the "study on all aspects of the conventional arms race and disarmament". So far 23 Member States have responded to the invitation. My delegation considers that it would be useful if more countries were to present their views on the study to the Secretary-General before we considered the most appropriate way of pursuing this important subject further.

In listening to the statements made in this Committee, my delegation has noted that a particularly large number of representatives have touched upon the question of conventional arms and disarmament, both from a general point of view and from a regional perspective. Concern has been expressed that, although the highest priority must continue to be devoted to nuclear disarmament, disarmament relating to the conventional arms race should nevertheless be given due and increased attention. The limitation and reduction of conventional arms would not only reduce the destructive effect of armed conflicts; it would also reduce the danger of the initiation and escalation of local conflicts. Another important aspect which has been mentioned has been the enormous drain on national budgets caused by the conventional arms race and the consequent diversion of scarce resources away from the economic and social sectors. In other words, the link between disarmament and development in both its national and its international aspects has again been stressed.

My delegation finds the many views expressed on the subject of conventional disarmament in the First Committee most encouraging.

(Mr. Groot, Denmark)

The present draft resolution recommends that due and increased attention be given both outside and within the United Nations to consideration of effective measures of conventional disarmament, making the widest use of the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

The draft resolution further invites Member States that have not yet done so to present their views on the study on conventional disarmament to the Secretary-General no later than 31 May 1986, and, finally, it provides for the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly of a provisional item entitled "Conventional disarmament".

I have noted with great satisfaction that draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.14 has been placed in the cluster of draft resolutions expected to be adopted without a vote. I hope very much this will be the case.

Mr. MAHBOUB (Iraq): On behalf of the delegation of Jordan and my own delegation, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/40/L.51, which was submitted on 7 November 1985 under agenda item 65, "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session".

My delegation, which listened very attentively to the representatives speaking during this session, noted that one common denominator in their views stood out, namely, their unanimous position that disarmament in its various aspects is of vital and equal importance to all the peoples of the world.

We have heard speaker after speaker stressing the fact that the arms race, and particularly nuclear arms race, constitutes a real threat to the very survival of mankind. The Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, has confirmed that all States have not only the right to participate in disarmament negotiations but also the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament.

(Mr. Mahboub, Iraq)

My delegation is firmly convinced that every State should leave no stone unturned in contributing to the success of disarmament. However, how can a State exercise the aforesaid right and fulfil its duty if it is deprived of even the possibility of speaking in the Conference on Disarmament, the world's single forum for multilateral negotiations in the field of disarmament?

As is well known, States that are not among the 40 members of the Conference on Disarmament cannot deliver any statement in that body without the approval of all its members. That is in accordance with the rule of consensus as practised in the Conference on Disarmament. In spite of the fact that it is called the rule of consensus, in reality it is tantamount to a veto, although it is not so called.

Although my delegation is fully aware of the serious difficulties which the rule of consensus is causing in the Conference on Disarmament, this draft resolution is merely designed to make it possible for all States that are not members of the Conference on Disarmament to exercise the rights and fulfil the duties conferred on them at the special session on disarmament and in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. This is because the prevailing practice in the Conference on Disarmament institutes a rule which does not conform to the basic democratic traditions of the United Nations.

The basic thrust of this draft resolution, which has already been distributed, is similar to that of resolution 39/148 L, adopted on 17 December 1984. The draft resolution contains two operative paragraphs. Operative paragraph 1 reads as follows:

"Reiterates once more the right of all States not members of the Conference on Disarmament to participate in the work of the plenary sessions of the Conference on substantive questions".

(Mr. Mahboub, Iraq)

In operative paragraph 2, States members of the Conference on Disarmament are urged not to misuse the rules of procedure of the Conference so as to prevent States that are not members from participating in the work of the Conference.

Unfortunately, no tangible progress has been achieved in the implementation of resolution 39/148 L. Indeed, the simple right to speak or merely reply was again denied during this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament, where only one of its members objected to the exercise of this right.

Finally, no country voted against last year's resolution. Therefore it is our hope that the present draft resolution will be adopted this year by consensus, with the intention of remedying this situation in the interest of fairness and the democratic tradition of the United Nations.

Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): Before introducing my draft resolution, may I say a few words about our world of today. We are living at a time when everything is changing; we have reached the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and we must look back and realize how the world has changed, technologically and otherwise. I have listened to many statements on the threat posed by nuclear weapons, that there must be agreements to avoid the use of such weapons, not to mention conventional weapons.

But I want to bring to the notice of the Committee that nuclear weapons cannot be used without destroying the user country itself. We have that on great authority from eminent scientists, so why should we waste our time trying to reach agreements on the non-use of nuclear weapons, when it has been scientifically established beyond doubt that those nuclear weapons cannot be used with impunity?

That is why I am introducing my draft resolution, A/C.1/40/L.23/Rev.1, "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: prevention of nuclear war".

The draft resolution says:

"Considering that nuclear weapons, in their development, have become so vastly destructive to the atmosphere that any country using them would, because of the effects of the winds" - the unavoidable effects of the winds - "suffer their devastating consequences no less,

"Bearing in mind that eminent international scientists" - both of the United States and of the Soviet Union - "have established definitively that nuclear weapons cannot be used without inevitably causing self-destruction to the user country itself,"

"1. Condemns and outlaws nuclear weapons;" - once and for all -

"2. Prohibits their future development or production;

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

"3. Calls upon the nuclear Powers to (a) desist from further development or production of nuclear weapons and (b) abandon all concept of the use or threat of use of such weapons;

"4. Recommends that the Secretary-General report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-first session."

That nuclear weapons cannot be used with impunity is beyond doubt. It has been established in a manner that cannot be disputed. So I repeat: Why should we waste so much time trying to get agreements on the non-use of nuclear weapons when weapons, if used by any country, would beyond any doubt destroy that country itself? That is why I think we could save a lot of time in the Committee, and in the world, if we realized existing realities in the world today.

I have therefore introduced this draft resolution, since it is necessary to condemn and outlaw nuclear weapons precisely because they cannot be used. Why then should we waste time in arriving at agreements, or anything else to do with nuclear weapons, when such weapons themselves have become the moralizer of man? They cannot be used and therefore everybody has to desist from using them.

Now, if any one has any doubt about this, it can easily be ascertained from any scientist in the world - any scientist of the Soviet Union, of the United States or of any other country. Therefore we have to abandon them, and that is the purpose of my draft resolution.

Eminent international scientists have established definitively that nuclear weapons cannot be used without inevitably causing self-destruction to the user country itself, since within 10 days the effects of the winds caused by the use of nuclear weapons would come upon the user country itself. So why should we waste so much time discussing here how to avoid nuclear weapons, when their use would not spare any country?

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

Hence I submit that we in this Committee have to condemn and outlaw nuclear weapons. They are unusable; they are merely the cause of much trouble but without any danger at all, because no country can use them without destroying itself. That is why the draft resolution says:

"Prohibits their future development or production".

This is the gist of my draft resolution: to condemn and outlaw nuclear weapons, to prohibit their future development or production and to call upon the nuclear Powers to desist from further development.

The CHAIRMAN: We have heard the last speaker for this afternoon's meeting. Before adjourning, however, I call on the Committee Secretary to make an announcement.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following draft resolutions have additional sponsors, as follows: A/C.1/40/L.2/Rev.2, Central African Republic; L.7, Romania; L.17, Romania; L.18, Romania; L.19, Romania; L.41, Romania and Ecuador; L.43, Ecuador; L.49, Ecuador; L.56, Norway; L.65, Romania; L.66, Denmark; L.69, Botswana; L.71, Ecuador; and L.72, Botswana.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.