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Agenda item 31

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973.

2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

3. At its 1987th meeting, on 25 September, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely:

Item 24: Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.

Item 27: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.

Item 28: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

Item 29: Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban.

Item 30: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

- Item 31: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
- Item 34: World Disarmament Conference.
- Item 35: General and complete disarmament.
- Item 100: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).
- Item 101: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- Item 103: Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.
- Item 107: Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1998th to 2016th meetings, from 21 October to 11 November.

5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 31, the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 11 March 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9585);

(b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

(c) Addendum to that report, 2/ containing the text of a draft resolution which the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean recommended unanimously for adoption by the General Assembly.

6. At the 2015th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced the draft resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

7. On 12 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/L.689) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9629).

2/ A/9629/Add.1.

8. At its 2019th meeting, on 14 November, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution by 79 votes to none, with 27 abstentions (see para. 11 below, draft resolution A).

9. On 20 November, Mauritius submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.699) by which the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would be enlarged by the addition of no more than three Member States. In introducing the draft resolution at the 2025th meeting, on the same day, the representative of Mauritius stated that the draft resolution would be put to the vote in the First Committee with the understanding that the names of the new members to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee would be designated by the Chairman of the First Committee and would be communicated by him to the President of the General Assembly before the draft resolution was put to the vote in plenary, and that this decision should be recorded in the report of the First Committee to the Assembly.

10. At the 2026th meeting, on 21 November, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (see para. 11 below, draft resolution B).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973,

Firmly convinced that further and continuous efforts are required to fulfil the objectives of the Declaration, and thus to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international peace and security,

Noting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 3/

Further noting the factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in all its aspects, in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, 4/ prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of qualified experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII),

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9629 and Add.1).

4/ A/AC.159/1/Rev.1.

Deeply concerned that the competitive expansion of the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean would constitute a serious intensification of the arms race, leading to an increase of tension in the area,

Considering that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires:

(a) The elimination of all manifestations of great Power military presence in the region conceived in the context of great Power rivalry,

(b) Co-operation among the regional States to ensure conditions of security within the region as envisaged in the Declaration,

Further believing that for the realization of the objective of the Declaration it is necessary that the great Powers enter into immediate consultations with the States concerned, with a view to adopting positive measures for the elimination of all foreign bases and of all manifestations of great Power military presence in the region conceived in the context of great Power rivalry,

1. Urges the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to give tangible support to the establishment and preservation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

2. Calls upon the great Powers to refrain from increasing and strengthening their military presence in the region of the Indian Ocean as an essential first step towards the relaxation of tension and the promotion of peace and security in the area;

3. Endorses the recommendations for the future work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, as contained in paragraph 35 of the report of the Committee; 5/

4. Requests the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter, as soon as possible, into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean;

5. Invites all States, especially the great Powers, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functions;

6. Expresses its thanks to the Secretary-General for his efforts in the preparation of the factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work and consultations in accordance with its mandate and to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 by which it decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean consisting of no more than 15 members,

Noting that some littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean have expressed deep interest in becoming members of the Ad Hoc Committee in view of their geographical position and adherence to the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace,

Noting further that since the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee new States have been admitted to membership in the United Nations,

Recognizing that the establishment and preservation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace is a matter that concerns all littoral and hinterland States,

Decides to enlarge the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean by the addition of no more than three Member States.
