



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/46/667  
20 November 1991  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Forty-sixth session  
Agenda item 54

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/52 of 4 December 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 October 1991, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 47 to 65. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 24th meetings, from 14 to 30 October (see A/C.1/46/PV.3-24). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 25th and 37th meetings, from 4 to 15 November (see A/C.1/46/PV.25-37).
4. In connection with item 54, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/46/291 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Letter dated 29 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/329-S/22855);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/493);

(d) Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the documents adopted by the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991 (A/46/486-S/23055).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.1/46/L.35 AND Rev.1

5. On 1 November, Egypt submitted a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (A/C.1/46/L.35).

6. On 6 November, the sponsor submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/46/L.35/Rev.1). The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 34th meeting, on 12 November, and contained the following changes:

(a) The eighth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Welcoming the initiative on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the region of the Middle East,"

was revised to read:

"Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,";

(b) Operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"6. Also invites all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;"

was revised to read:

"6. Further invites all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.35/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989 and 45/52 of 4 December 1990 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing also the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

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1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing further the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 45/52, 2/

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 3/

2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. Invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

4. Also invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

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2/ A/46/291 and Add.1 and 2.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

5. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;
6. Further invites all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to conduct further consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, on the basis of the study undertaken by him in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 43/65, as well as the views and suggestions submitted by Member States in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 45/52, taking into account the evolving situation in the region, to explore further the ways and means of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;
9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

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