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Agenda item 49

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Education and information for disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/123 of 15 December 1989.
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 49, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on education and information for disarmament (A/46/506);
 - (b) 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).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/46/L.34

5. On 1 November, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution entitled "Education and information for disarmament" (A/C.1/46/L.34), which was later also sponsored by Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, India, Ireland, Kuwait, Peru, Samoa, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Costa Rica at the 29th meeting, on 6 November.

6. At its 35th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.34 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Education and information for disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/123 of 15 December 1989,

Taking into account the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ in particular paragraph 106 thereof, in which the Assembly urged Governments and governmental and non-governmental international organizations to take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels,

Considering that paragraphs 99, 100 and 101 of the Final Document provide for the mechanisms of a programme to mobilize world public opinion on behalf of disarmament, including the dissemination of information and publicity to complement the educational work,

Also considering that the World Disarmament Campaign plays an important role in complementing the educational efforts on behalf of disarmament carried out by Member States within their own educational and cultural development systems,

Recognizing that, in order to achieve irreversible results, it is indispensable to carry out training programmes at all levels of formal education for the purpose of changing basic attitudes with respect to aggression, violence, armaments and war,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Noting with satisfaction the important changes that have taken place in many systems of government throughout the world aimed at promoting freedom, democracy, respect for and enjoyment of human rights, disarmament and social and economic development,

1. Expresses appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report submitted pursuant to resolution 44/123; 2/

2. Also expresses appreciation for the valuable information contained in the report as provided by Member States, international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions for peace and disarmament;

3. Reiterates that, in order to achieve the desired results, it is indispensable to carry out training programmes at all levels of formal education for the purpose of changing basic attitudes with respect to aggression, violence, armaments and war, especially at a time when important changes have taken place in many systems of government throughout the world aimed at promoting freedom, democracy, respect for and enjoyment of human rights, disarmament and social and economic development;

4. Considers that attainment of the vital objectives set out in the World Disarmament Campaign of informing, educating and generating understanding of and support for the goals of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament would make a positive contribution to implementing the proposals contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and set out in the first preambular paragraph above;

5. Invites Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and educational institutions for peace and disarmament to redouble their efforts to respond to the appeal made in paragraph 106 of the Final Document and to submit to the Secretary-General a report on their activities in this regard;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the reports requested in paragraph 5 above to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Education and information for disarmament".
