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Forty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 66

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Australia, Bahamas, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic,
Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican
Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Federal Republic of,
Guinea, Ireland, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Netherlands, Samoa,
Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Togo, Zaire and Zambia;
revised draft resolution

Rationalization of the work of the First Committee

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that, in order for the United Nations to discharge effectively its central role and primary responsibilities in the field of disarmament and related security questions, the necessary political will of States as well as the effective functioning of existing machinery must be demonstrated,

Convinced that the existing machinery for the consideration of disarmament and related international security questions within the framework of the United Nations can and should be reinforced through concrete measures to increase its effectiveness and efficiency,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities of the First Committee as the key organ of the General Assembly for disarmament and related international security questions,

Acknowledging the valuable proposals already introduced with the above-mentioned goal in mind, including those of the group of former and present chairmen and members of the bureau of the First Committee,

Taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission, 1/

1. Decides to adopt the following recommendations concerning the work of the First Committee:

(a) The agenda of the First Committee should be rationalized by grouping or merging related items to the extent possible in order to provide greater organizational clarity and without prejudging their substance;

(b) Recommendations on procedural matters should be adopted as decisions, not as resolutions;

(c) In the interest of maximum effectiveness and efficiency, draft resolutions on the same subject or under the same agenda items should be merged, whenever possible;

(d) A period of time for discussion and for organized informal consultations among delegations should be allocated in the programme of work of the First Committee;

(e) The First Committee should have a single general debate on all disarmament questions during which delegations may speak on specific issues, in order to ensure the best use of time and resources available;

(f) Deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on disarmament items should be advanced further to the extent feasible with a view to allowing sufficient time for consultations before proceeding to take action upon them;

2. Requests the First Committee to implement the above-mentioned recommendations at the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/42/42).