

REPORT
OF THE
***AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON THE**
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/35/28)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1980

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

/Original: English/
/18 July 1980/

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	1
II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE	5 - 13	2
III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	14 - 16	5

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 34/81 of 11 December 1979, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference 1/ to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any possible relevant proposals and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2). The Assembly also requested the Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Biyagama J. Fernando and his successor, Mr. N. Balasubramaniam	(Sri Lanka)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Carlos T. Alzamora and his successor, Mr. Juan José Calle y Calle	(Peru)
	Mr. Henryk Jaroszek and his successor, Mr. Ryszard Frelek	(Poland)
	Mr. Artemon Simbananiye	(Burundi)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Fermin Zelada	(Spain)

3. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics participated in the work of the Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of resolution 3183 (XXVIII). Under the same provision, China, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman. The German Democratic Republic and Viet Nam attended meetings of the Committee as observers.

4. The Working Group established in 1974 2/ continued to function.

1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should consist of the following 40 non-nuclear-weapon Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

2/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland and Spain (Chairman). Algeria, Austria, the German Democratic Republic, Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics participated in the Working Group as observers.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. In accordance with its mandate mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1980.
6. During the first session, the Committee held two meetings on 31 March and 1 April 1980. At the first meeting, the Committee was informed that Mr. C. T. Alzamora (Peru) had completed his mission and thus was unable to continue in his function as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and elected by acclamation Mr. J. J. Calle y Calle (Peru) as Vice-Chairman.
7. During the second session, the Committee held three meetings between 16 and 20 June 1980. At the 1st meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee was informed that Mr. B. J. Fernando (Sri Lanka) and Mr. H. Jaroszek (Poland) had completed their missions in New York and thus were unable to continue in their functions as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The Committee, therefore, elected by acclamation Mr. N. Balasubramaniam (Sri Lanka) as the new Chairman and Mr. R. Frelek (Poland) as Vice-chairman.
8. During the two sessions, the following States members of the Ad Hoc Committee and observers made statements on the subject: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam.
9. Members of the Committee were fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the Governments of other States on the convening of a world disarmament conference.
10. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee were also aware of the fact that the subject of convening a world disarmament conference had been considered by the Disarmament Commission during its session held between 12 May and 6 June 1980. The report of the Disarmament Commission to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, in the elements of a draft resolution entitled "Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade", 3/ under the heading "Implementation, review and appraisal", recalls, inter alia, that the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly stated: "At the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened with universal participation and with adequate preparation".
11. The Working Group held three meetings, on 18 and 19 June 1980, and elaborated the draft of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
12. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 55th meeting, considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
13. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 34/81, the Ad Hoc Committee, through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the

3/ Official Records of the Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/35/42), para. 19.

representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their respective attitudes and obtained the following updated indications of their positions:

China

The position of the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of the World Disarmament Conference remains unchanged.

France

While France's position in the past was one of favouring in principle the idea of a world disarmament conference which, after a suitable period of preparation, would be attended by, among others, the five nuclear-weapon Powers, it, nevertheless, realizes that the present international situation is not conducive to meaningful planning of such an undertaking.

France points out, moreover, that a proposal of this kind cannot be considered in isolation from the achievements of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, and the planned second session in 1982.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union has consistently and persistently come out for the World Disarmament Conference, believing that its convening would be of great international importance. This forum specially devoted to one of the most urgent problems of the present should be a further step forward in combining the efforts of States in the field of disarmament, which would supplement what was expressed and agreed on at the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, including the special session devoted to disarmament.

The USSR is convinced that the World Disarmament Conference could elaborate effective decisions which would be a new incentive for all States for taking practical measures on halting the arms race and on achieving disarmament. Universality of the World Conference would ensure the joint participation of all countries of the world in consideration of disarmament issues. The Soviet Union sees the value and usefulness of this forum in the fact that on the basis of the agreement among its participants there can be ensured a mandatory nature of the decisions taken by it.

It appears from the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and other documents of the General Assembly as well as from the documents of the non-aligned States, in particular the Havana Declaration adopted by the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, ^{4/} that the idea of holding a World Disarmament Conference continues to enjoy an ever wider support.

In the light of the recommendations of the General Assembly's special session on disarmament concerning the convocation of a world disarmament conference at the earliest appropriate time, as well as the provision of resolution 34/81 adopted by

^{4/} A/34/542, annex.

the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the possibility of convening such a conference after the second special session on disarmament, the Soviet Union is of the opinion that the time has come to take concrete steps which would help to start directly a thorough preparation for the Conference. Having this aim in mind, it would be expedient to determine the date of convening the World Disarmament Conference and to establish a preparatory body for the Conference. A positive solution of these questions would be logical and timely.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference would considerably facilitate the convocation of the World Disarmament Conference by submitting to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a report on concrete issues of convening of the Conference, in particular, on the issue of the role the Conference might play after the second special session on disarmament. That is why the Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, should adopt a resolution authorizing the Ad Hoc Committee to start the preparation of the report for the second special session on disarmament.

The Soviet Union supported the idea of holding the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament and took a most active part in it. It has also supported the proposal to convene the second special session in 1982. We believe, however, that the World Disarmament Conference would become a unique forum and gain a historic meaning. Preparation and holding of the Conference would make it possible to concentrate the attention of Governments of all States of the world and world public opinion on the solution of the question of how to halt the arms race and move forward on the way to real disarmament. Therefore the Soviet Union considers that the second special session on disarmament should be followed by the World Disarmament Conference, and the thirty-fifth session of the Assembly should contribute to achieving this goal.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Government of the United Kingdom believes that, given recent international events, it is not useful to continue to consider for the time being the idea of a world disarmament conference. Accordingly, the United Kingdom doubts the usefulness of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference continuing to meet and in any event does not think it appropriate for the Committee to undertake any substantive work at this stage.

United States of America

The United States continues to believe that it is premature to set a date and begin preparations for the convening of a world disarmament conference. As noted in the views of the United States contained in the 1978 and 1979 reports of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to the General Assembly, ^{5/} the United States believes there is insufficient political agreement on the issues which would presumably be addressed at such a conference. This lack of agreement would probably hinder rather than assist efforts to reach concrete and verifiable arms control measures.

^{5/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/33/28), p. 4; and *ibid.*, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/34/28), p. 4.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14. The Ad Hoc Committee reiterated that the idea of a world disarmament conference has received wide support by the membership of the United Nations, however, with varying degrees of emphasis and differences on conditions and certain aspects related to the question of its convening, including aspects related to the deteriorating international situation. It was also evident from the updated indications of positions of the nuclear-weapon States, as reflected in paragraph 13 of this report, some of which contain new elements requiring careful consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, that no consensus with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference under the present conditions has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States whose participation in a world disarmament conference has been deemed essential by most Members of the Organization.

15. Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparation, and in view of the fact that the Disarmament Commission, as indicated in paragraph 10 of this report, considered it pertinent to recall paragraph 122 of the Final Document, the General Assembly may wish to decide that after its second special session devoted to disarmament, a world disarmament conference would take place as soon as the necessary consensus on its convening has been reached.

16. The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

يمكن الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع أنحاء العالم . استلم عنها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها أو اكتب الى : الأمم المتحدة ، قسم البيع في نيويورك أو في جنيف .

如何购取联合国出版物

联合国出版物在全世界各地的书店和经售处均有发售。请向书店询问或写信到纽约或日内瓦的联合国销售组。

HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre libraire ou adressez-vous à : Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Наводите справки об изданиях в вашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.
