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35/46. Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/75 of 11 December 1979, in which it decided to declare the decade of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade,

Having considered the elements of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade prepared by the Disarmament Commission,¹

Adopts the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

*79th plenary meeting
3 December 1980*

ANNEX

Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

I. GENERAL

1. In proclaiming the decade of the 1970s as the first United Nations Disarmament Decade, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, enumerated its objectives as follows:

(a) All Governments should intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

(b) Consideration should be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, their scientific and technological progress.

2. Although these objectives were reiterated by the General Assembly in later sessions, the first Disarmament Decade ended without their accomplishment. While it is true that some limited agreements were reached, effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament have continued to elude man's grasp. Furthermore, no progress has been made in channelling for the purpose of economic and social develop-

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/35/42), para. 19.

ment any amount of the enormous resources which are wasted on the unproductive arms race.

3. Through the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, contained in resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, which was adopted by consensus, the Assembly, after expressing its conviction that disarmament and arms limitation, particularly in the nuclear field, were essential for the prevention of the danger of nuclear war, for the strengthening of international peace and security and for the economic and social advancement of all peoples, laid down a Programme of Action² enumerating the specific measures of disarmament which should be implemented over the next few years.

4. In spite of the positive and encouraging outcome of the special session devoted to disarmament, the decade of the 1980s has started with ominous signs of deterioration in the international situation. International peace and security are threatened by the use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of States, by military intervention and occupation, hegemonism, interference in the internal affairs of States, the denial of the right of self-determination of peoples and nations under colonial and alien domination, and by the further escalation of the arms race and efforts to achieve military superiority. It is clear that, if the emerging trend continues and meaningful efforts are not made to check and reverse this trend, international tensions will be further exacerbated and the danger of war will be greater than foreseen at the time of the special session on disarmament. In this connexion, it is pertinent to recall that in the Final Document the General Assembly emphasized that, on the one hand, the arms race in all its aspects runs counter to efforts to achieve further relaxation of international tension to establish a viable system of international peace and security and, on the other, that peace and security must be based on strict respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is ironic that, while intensive discussions are under way in various forums on global economic problems and on the depletion of resources available for coping with present international economic problems, military expenditures by major military Powers are reaching ever higher levels, involving the greater diversion of resources that could have helped to promote the well-being of all peoples.

5. The close relationship between disarmament and development was also underscored in the Final Document, which stated that the resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development of all nations and contribute to the bridging of the economic gap between developed and developing countries. It is, therefore, only appropriate that simultaneously with the proclamation of the Third United Nations Development Decade³ and the launching of the global round of negotiations, the 1980s should be declared as the Second Disarmament Decade.

² Resolution S-10/2, sect. III.

³ See sect. V, resolution 35/56, annex.

II. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

6. The goals of the Second Disarmament Decade should be conceived in the context of the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process, which is general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as elaborated in the Final Document.

7. Consistent with this over-all objective, the goals of the Second Disarmament Decade should be the following:

(a) Halting and reversing the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race;

(b) Concluding and implementing effective agreements on disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, which will contribute significantly to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

(c) Developing on an equitable basis the limited results obtained in the field of disarmament in the 1970s in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document;

(d) Strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

(e) Making available a substantial part of the resources released by disarmament measures to promote the attainment of the objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade and, in particular, the economic and social development of developing countries, so as to accelerate the progress towards the new international economic order.

8. The disarmament process and the activities during the Second Disarmament Decade should be in accordance with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Final Document and should be carried out in such a balanced and equitable manner as to ensure the right of each State to security through the adoption of appropriate measures, taking into account the importance of nuclear disarmament and conventional disarmament, the special responsibility of the States with the largest military arsenals, the specific requirements of regional situations and the necessity for adequate measures of verification. At each stage, the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.

9. Progress in disarmament should be accompanied by the strengthening of the peace-making and peace-keeping functions of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter.

III. ACTIVITIES

A. General

10. The decade of the 1980s should witness renewed intensification by all Governments and the United Nations of their efforts to reach agreement and to implement effective measures that will lead to discernible progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. In this connexion, special attention should be focused on certain identifiable elements in the Programme of Action as adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session which should, as a minimum, be accomplished during the Second Disarmament Decade both through negotiations in the multilateral negotiating forum, the Committee on Disarmament, and in other appropriate forums. Adequate methods and procedures of verification should be considered in the context of international disarmament negotiations.

B. Comprehensive programme of disarmament

11. Having been recognized as an important element in an international disarmament strategy, the comprehensive programme for disarmament should be elaborated with the utmost urgency. The Committee on Disarmament should expedite its work on the elaboration of the programme with a view to its adoption no later than at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, scheduled for 1982.

C. Priorities

12. The accomplishment of those specific measures of disarmament which have been identified in the Final Document as worthy of priority negotiations by the multilateral negotiating organ would create a very favourable international climate for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. All efforts should be exerted, therefore, by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement, and to submit

agreed texts where possible before the second special session devoted to disarmament on:

(a) A comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) A treaty on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction;

(c) A treaty on the prohibition of the development, production and use of radiological weapons;

(d) Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account all proposals and suggestions that have been made in this regard.

13. The same priority should be given to the following measures which are dealt with outside the Committee on Disarmament:

(a) Ratification of the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT II) and commencement of negotiations for a SALT III agreement;

(b) Ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco);⁴

(c) Signature and ratification of the agreement negotiated by the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;

(d) Achievement of an agreement on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments and associated measures in central Europe;

(e) Negotiations on effective confidence-building measures and disarmament measures in Europe among the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, taking into account initiatives and proposals to this effect;

(f) Achievement of a more stable situation in Europe at a lower level of military potential on the basis of approximate equality and parity by agreement on appropriate mutual reduction and limitation of armaments and armed forces in accordance with paragraph 82 of the Final Document, which would contribute to the strengthening of security in Europe and constitute a significant step towards enhancing international peace and security.

14. Other priority measures that should be pursued as rapidly as possible during the Second Disarmament Decade include:

(a) Significant progress towards the achievement of nuclear disarmament, which will require urgent negotiation of agreements at appropriate stages and with adequate measures of verification satisfactory to the States concerned for:

(i) Cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems;

(ii) Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

(iii) A comprehensive, phased programme with agreed time-frames, whenever feasible, for progressive and balanced reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time;

(b) Prevention of the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons;

(c) Further strategic arms limitation negotiations between the two parties, leading to agreed significant reductions of, and qualitative limitations on, strategic arms. These should constitute an important step in the direction of nuclear disarmament and, ultimately, of the establishment of a world free of such weapons;

(d) Further steps to develop an international consensus to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 65 to 71 of the Final Document;

(e) Strengthening of the existing nuclear-weapon-free zone and the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document;

(f) Establishment of zones of peace in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Final Document;

(g) Measures to secure the avoidance of the use of nuclear weapons, the prevention of nuclear war and related objectives, where possible through international agreement, bearing in mind various

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068, p. 326.

proposals designed to secure these objectives and in accordance with paragraphs 57 and 58 of the Final Document, and thereby to ensure that the survival of mankind is not endangered:

(h) Further steps to prohibit military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques;

(i) Multilateral regional and bilateral measures on the limitation and reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Final Document;

(j) Reduction of military expenditures;

(k) Confidence-building measures, taking into account the particular conditions and requirements of different regions, with a view to strengthening the security of States.

D. *Disarmament and development*

15. Peace and development are indivisible. During the Second Disarmament Decade, utmost efforts should be made towards the implementation of the specific measures whereby disarmament will contribute effectively to economic and social development and thus facilitate the full and early realization of the new international economic order. To this end, renewed efforts should be made to reach agreement on the reduction of military expenditures and the re-allocation of resources from military purposes to economic and social development especially for the benefit of developing countries.

16. Efforts should also be made to strengthen international co-operation for the promotion of the transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for economic and social development, especially in the developing countries, taking into account the provisions of all relevant paragraphs of the Final Document, in particular to ensure the success of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, to be convened in principle by 1983, as decided upon in General Assembly resolution 34/63 of 29 November 1979, as well as other promotional activities in this field in the United Nations system, including those within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

E. *Disarmament and international security*

17. An essential condition for progress in the field of disarmament is the preservation and strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of confidence among States. Nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization. It is essential to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race in all its aspects in order to avert the danger of war involving nuclear weapons. The ultimate goal in this context is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Significant progress in nuclear disarmament would be facilitated both by parallel political and international legal measures to strengthen the security of States and by progress in the limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments of the nuclear-weapon States and other States in the regions concerned.

18. All States Members of the United Nations have, in the Final Document, reaffirmed their full commitment to the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and their obligation strictly to observe its principles as well as other relevant and generally accepted principles of international law relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. Disarmament, relaxation of international tension, respect for the right to self-determination and national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter and the strengthening of international peace and security are directly related to each other. Progress in any of these spheres has a beneficial effect on all of them; in turn, failure in one sphere has negative effects on others. In the decade of the 1980s, all Governments, in particular the most advanced military Powers, should therefore take such steps as will contribute to the widening of trust among nations of the world as well as in the various regions. This implies a commitment on the part of all States to avoid actions likely to increase tension or create new areas of threats to international peace and security and, in their relationship with other countries, strictly to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and the right of peoples under colonial or foreign domination to self-determination and national independence.

F. *Public awareness*

19. As stated in paragraph 15 of the Final Document, it is essential that not only Governments but also the peoples of the world

recognize and understand the dangers in the present world armaments situation, so that world public opinion will be mobilized on behalf of peace and disarmament. This will be of great importance to the strengthening of international peace and security, the just and peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts and effective disarmament.

20. In the course of the decade of the 1980s, therefore, governmental and non-governmental information organs of Member States and those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, should, as appropriate, undertake further programmes of information relating to the danger of the armaments race as well as to disarmament efforts and negotiations and their results, particularly by means of annual activities conducted in connexion with Disarmament Week. These actions should constitute a large-scale programme further to alert world opinion to the danger of war in general and of nuclear war in particular. In keeping with its central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament, the United Nations, in particular its Centre for Disarmament, should intensify and co-ordinate its programme of publications, audio-visual materials, co-operation with non-governmental organizations and relations with the media. Among its activities, the United Nations should also, in the course of the Second Disarmament Decade, sponsor seminars in the different regions of the world at which issues relating to world disarmament, in general, and to the particular region, especially, will be extensively discussed.

G. *Studies*

21. As part of the process of facilitating the consideration of issues in the field of disarmament, studies on specific questions should be undertaken on the decision of the General Assembly, when necessary for preparing the ground for negotiations or reaching agreement. Also, studies pursued under the auspices of the United Nations, in particular by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research established by Assembly resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 within the framework of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, could bring a useful contribution to the knowledge and exploration of disarmament problems, especially in the long term.

H. *Implementation, review and appraisal*

22. In the accomplishment of the activities earmarked for the Second Disarmament Decade, all Governments, particularly the most advanced military Powers, should make an effective contribution. The United Nations should continue to play a central role. The Committee on Disarmament should fully discharge its responsibility as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body. The General Assembly should, at its annual sessions and, in particular, at its second special session devoted to disarmament to be held in 1982, make an effective contribution to the pursuit of the goals of disarmament.

23. It is pertinent also to recall that paragraphs 121 and 122 of the Final Document stated:

(a) That bilateral and regional disarmament negotiations may also play an important role and could facilitate the negotiation of multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament;

(b) That at the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened with universal participation and with adequate preparation.

24. In order to ensure a co-ordinated approach and to consider the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, this question should be included in the agenda of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, envisaged for 1982.

25. In addition, the General Assembly will undertake at its fortieth session, in 1985, a review and appraisal, through the Disarmament Commission, of progress in the implementation of the measures identified in the present Declaration

35/47. **Preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**⁵

The General Assembly,

Recalling section III of its resolution 33/71 H of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a second

⁵ See also sect. X.B.1, decisions 35/417 and 35/430.