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Agenda item 39

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alemayehu MAKONNEN (Ethiopia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/47 of 3 December 1980.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, 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 7 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 56, 128 and 135. The general debate on these items took place at the 3rd to 26th meetings, from 19 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/36/PV.3-26).
4. In connexion with item 39, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/36/49 and Corr.1).

(b) Letter dated 2 March 1981 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981 (A/36/116 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 27 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Social Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/226);

(d) Letter dated 18 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/528 and Corr.1);

(e) Letter dated 30 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 25 and 28 September 1981, to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/36/566-S/14713);

(f) Letter dated 5 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 68th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Havana from 15 to 23 September 1981 (A/36/584).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.5

5. On 6 November, Algeria, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burma, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire submitted a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" (A/C.1/36/L.5), which was later also sponsored by Canada, the Congo, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mongolia, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Uruguay. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 28th meeting, on 10 November.

6. In connexion with this item, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the administrative and financial implications (A/C.1/36/L.49).

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.5 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.43 and Rev.1

8. On 16 November, Argentina, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Romania, Sweden, and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of nuclear war" (A/C.1/36/L.43), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race,

"Recalling that removal of the threat of a world war - a nuclear war - is the most acute and urgent task of the present day,

"Reiterating that it is the shared responsibility of all Member States to save succeeding generations from the scourge of another world war,

"Recalling the provisions of paragraphs 57 and 58 of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament regarding proposals designed to secure the avoidance of nuclear war,

"Considering that prevention of nuclear war and reduction of the risks of nuclear war are matters of the highest priority,

"Aware of the special responsibility of nuclear-weapon States,

"1. Requests all nuclear-weapon States in the first instance to submit by 30 April 1982, for consideration by the second special session on disarmament, their respective views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war,

"2. Decides to resume consideration of the question of prevention of nuclear war at the second special session on disarmament."

9. On 20 November 1981, Mexico submitted the following amendments (A/C.1/36/L.50) to draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.43:

(a) Replacement of the fourth preambular paragraph by the following:

"Recalling the provisions of paragraphs 47 to 50 and 56 to 58 of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament regarding procedures designed to secure the avoidance of nuclear war";

(b) Addition of a new sixth preambular paragraph reading as follows:

"Reiterating the vital interest of all the peoples of the world in the sphere of disarmament";

(c) Replacement of operative paragraph 1 by the following:

"1. Invites all Member States, in particular, nuclear-weapon States, to submit by 30 April 1982, for consideration by the second special session on disarmament, their respective views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war".

10. At the 44th meeting, on 25 November, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Ireland, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/36/L.43/Rev.1). At the same meeting, Mexico withdrew its amendments (A/C.1/36/L.50).

11. At its 44th meeting, on 25 November 1981, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/36/L.43/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution B).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

A

Preparations for the second special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling section III of its resolution 33/71 H of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

Having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, 2/

1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament and the recommendations contained therein for the special session, to be held between 7 June and 9 July 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

2. Endorses also the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee to meet in New York for the period from 26 April to 14 May 1982 in order to continue consideration of substantive issues related to the special session, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, for incorporation in the document or documents to be

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/36/49 and Corr.1).

adopted at the second special session on disarmament and any remaining organizational and procedural matters;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the members of the Preparatory Committee for their constructive contribution to its work;

4. Invites Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, not later than 31 March 1982, further views on the substantive issues related to the special session, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly at its tenth special session;

5. Requests all Member States engaged in bilateral, regional or multilateral negotiations on disarmament issues, outside the framework of the United Nations, to submit appropriate information on such negotiations to the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ the first special session on disarmament, before its second special session on disarmament;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to render the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance for the completion of its work.

B

Prevention of nuclear war

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race,

Recalling that removal of the threat of a world war - a nuclear war - is the most acute and urgent task of the present day,

Reiterating that it is the shared responsibility of all Member States to save succeeding generations from the scourge of another world war,

Recalling the provisions of paragraphs 47 to 50 and 56 to 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, regarding procedures designed to secure the avoidance of nuclear war,

1. Urges all nuclear-weapon States to submit to the Secretary-General by 30 April 1982, for consideration at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, their views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war;

3/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.

2. Invites all other Member States that so desire to do likewise;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing the views, proposals and practical suggestions referred to in paragraph 1 above, as well as those received from other Member States, to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament.
