

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 5 (A/S-15/5)



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New York, 1988

NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 42/43 of 30 November 1987, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was requested to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament. The present report has been prepared in conformity with that resolution.

2. The item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" was included in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly at the request of Sri Lanka, later joined by the United Republic of Tanzania. The Assembly, at that session, adopted resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 in which it solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the airspace above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers, in conformity with the Declaration, to enter into consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to halting the further expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating from the area all bases, military installations, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great-Power rivalry, and called upon the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to enter into consultations with a view to implementing the Declaration and ensuring that: (a) warships and military aircraft would not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against any of its littoral or hinterland States; (b) subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by all nations would be unaffected; and (c) arrangements would be made to give effect to any international agreement ultimately reached on the question.

3. By its resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, consisting of no more than 15 members. 1/ At the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee was enlarged to 18 members 2/ (resolution 3259 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974). At the thirty-second session, the Committee was further enlarged to 23 members 3/ (resolution 32/86 of 12 December 1977). At its thirty-fourth session, the Assembly decided to enlarge the Committee by the addition of new members 4/ to be appointed by the President of the Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee (resolution 34/80 B of 11 December 1979). Between 1981 and 1987, three Member States were appointed by the President of the Assembly as additional members of the Committee. 5/ At present, the Committee is composed of the following 49 Member States:

Australia	Greece	Mauritius
Bangladesh	India	Mozambique
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Netherlands
Canada	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Norway
China	Iraq	Oman
Democratic Yemen	Italy	Pakistan
Djibouti	Japan	Panama
Egypt	Kenya	Poland
Ethiopia	Liberia	Romania
France	Madagascar	Seychelles
German Democratic Republic	Malaysia	Singapore
Germany, Federal Republic of	Maldives	Somalia

Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B, Sweden continued to attend the meetings of the Committee as an observer.

4. The bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee consisted initially of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. At its 53rd meeting, on 25 September 1978, the Committee decided that its bureau would be expanded by the appointment of an additional Vice-Chairman to be elected from among the members of the African group of States. In order to reflect its new composition, the Committee, at its 103rd meeting, on 25 July 1980, decided to expand its bureau by the addition of two more Vice-Chairmen.

5. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee for the period from 1982 to 1987 were the following:

Chairmen: Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka) (1981-1983)
Mr. S. W. Arthur de Silva (Sri Lanka) (1984)
Mr. Nissanka Wijewardane (Sri Lanka) (1984-1988)

Vice Chairmen: Ms. Susan Boyd (Australia) (1982-1984)
Mr. John Okely (Australia) (1985-1988)
Mr. Siegfried Kahn (German Democratic Republic) (1980-1984)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic) (1984-)
Mr. Izhar Ibrahim (Indonesia) (1982-1984)
Mr. Samsi Abdullah (Indonesia) (1985-1987)
Mr. José Carlos Lobo (Mozambique) (1981-1983)
Mr. Daniel Assa Nhaguilunguana (Mozambique) (1983)
Mr. Manuel dos Santos (Mozambique) (1984-)

Rapporteurs: Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar) (1977-1983)
Mr. André Tahindro (Madagascar) (1983-1985)
Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar) (1986-)

6. At its 323rd meeting, on 11 April 1988, the Ad Hoc Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Daya Perera (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Jill Courtney (Australia) (1988-)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic) (1984-)
Mr. Isslamet Poernomo (Indonesia) (1988-)
Mr. Manuel dos Santos (Mozambique) (1984-)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar) (1986-)

7. Mr. Shunichiro Yoshida and Mr. Vladimir Kulyushin, Political Affairs Officers of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, serve respectively as Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Principal Officer of the Department of Disarmament Affairs, serves as Senior Adviser on the Committee staff. Mr. Kheradi also served as Secretary of the Committee from 1977 to 1987.

8. In its report to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament, 6/ the Committee had provided information on its work from 1972 to 1981. The present report therefore covers the work of the Committee from 1982 to 1987.

9. By its resolution 37/96 of 13 December 1982, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the exchange of views in the Committee, expressed its regret that the Committee had failed to reach consensus on the finalization of the date for the convening in 1983 of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and took note of the views expressed relating to the need for the convening of the Conference in the first half of 1984. In pursuance of its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, the Assembly emphasized its decision to request the Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference. It requested the Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1984. It also requested the Chairman of the Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving the matter at the earliest possible date.

10. In paragraph 5 of resolution 38/185 of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to make decisive efforts in 1984 to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean, in consideration of the political and security climate in the region and with a view to enabling the opening of the Conference at Colombo in the first half of 1985, it being understood that such preparatory work would comprise organizational matters, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, documentation and consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that might ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, and substantive issues. The Assembly also requested the Committee at the same time to make determined efforts in 1984 for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining relevant issues and to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate.

11. Taking note of the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee during 1984, the General Assembly, by its resolution 39/149 of 17 December 1984, requested the Committee to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean, in 1985, in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo thereafter at the earliest date in the first half of 1986 to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country. It decided that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, pages of

conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that might ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference. It requested the Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues and requested the Chairman of the Committee to consult the Secretary-General, at the appropriate time, on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference.

12. By its resolution 40/153 of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly, noting that the Ad Hoc Committee had been unable, during 1985, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, urged the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination and requested the Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1986 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country. It emphasized that the Conference called for in its resolution 34/80 B and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace required the full and active participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States.

13. By its resolution 41/87 of 4 December 1986, the General Assembly, taking note of the discussions on substantive matters in the Working Group established in accordance with the Ad Hoc Committee's decision of 11 July 1985, emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace adopted in 1971. It further noted that the Committee had been unable, during its four weeks of work in 1986, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference. It urged the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination and, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, requested it to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference during 1987 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country, with a clear understanding that if preparatory work was not completed in 1987 serious consideration would be given to ways and means of more effectively organizing work in the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate. It also requested the Committee to hold two preparatory sessions in 1987, each of a duration of two weeks, for the completion of preparatory work.

14. By its resolution 42/43 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and requested that the Committee hold three preparatory sessions in 1988, each of a duration of one week, one of which could be held at Colombo in accordance with a decision to be taken by the Committee at its first session in 1988. It also requested the Committee, should the preparatory work not be completed to enable the convening of the Conference in 1988, to complete the remaining work during its subsequent sessions in order to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date, but not later than 1990, in consultation with the host country. The Assembly noted that the Committee would, during its preparatory sessions in 1988, give serious consideration to ways and means of more effectively organizing work in the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

15. Since its establishment by General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has met annually at United Nations Headquarters and considered the various aspects relating to the implementation of resolution 2832 (XXVI) containing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

16. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981, the Ad Hoc Committee held 30 formal meetings and a number of informal meetings in 1982. At its 173rd meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Committee adopted its agenda for the year on the understanding, as had been made clear in the Chairman's statement at the preceding meeting, that substantive issues would be taken up before the consideration of organizational issues and that adequate time would be devoted to substantive issues without precluding sufficient work on organizational matters.

17. In accordance with the above-mentioned understanding, the Committee conducted an exchange of views on the implementation of resolution 36/90. On the one hand, the discussions revealed a strong feeling that the Committee should proceed without delay to practical preparations for the Conference and make every effort to complete the necessary preparations for holding the Conference not later than the first half of 1983, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971. On the other hand, it was emphasized by some delegations that the lack of real progress on the harmonization of views and the prevailing political and security climate in the region were not conducive, at that stage, to the convening of the Conference.

18. Three working papers were introduced to the Committee in the course of its meetings in 1982. On 9 March 1982, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of Bulgaria, introduced a working paper entitled "Conception for a possible structure and procedure of the Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.43). The delegation of Australia, on its own behalf and that of the delegations of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced on 25 May 1982 a paper entitled "Proposal for a set of principles on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" (A/AC.159/L.44). On 20 August 1982, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a working paper entitled "Working paper on the participation of non-member States of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in the work of the Committee" (A/AC.159/L.48).

19. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/96, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions, each of a two-week duration, in 1983. It held 32 formal meetings and a number of informal meetings that year. Following the adoption of the agenda at the 203rd meeting, on 4 February 1983, the Chairman announced that, in accordance with an understanding reached in the Committee, the following statement should be considered an integral part of the agenda itself:

"Following a general exchange of views, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean will meet in formal and informal sessions as it considers appropriate to accomplish the necessary substantive and organizational preparatory work for the Conference. The substantive issues related to the zone of peace, taking into consideration the aspects in the informal list of

topics as mentioned in paragraph 21 of document A/35/29, will be taken up before consideration of organizational issues and adequate time will be devoted to substantive issues without precluding sufficient work on organizational matters. In accordance with its normal methods of work, the Committee will give consideration to all documents placed before it by its members."

20. At its meetings held between 4 February and 22 July 1983, the Committee had before it three working papers. On 8 February 1983, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of Bulgaria, introduced a working paper entitled "Conception for a structure of the second stage of the Conference on the Indian Ocean (explanatory memorandum to working paper A/AC.159/L.43)" (A/AC.159/L.53). On 13 April 1983, the representative of Egypt introduced a working paper entitled "Nucleus of safeguards to govern the conduct and work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.54). At the meeting held on 22 July 1983, the delegation of Australia, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of the United States of America, introduced a working paper entitled "ANZUS Council-Communiqué agreed in Washington, D.C., on 19 July 1983 between the ANZUS partners: Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America" (A/AC.159/L.58).

21. The Ad Hoc Committee decided at its 217th meeting, on 20 April 1983, to request the Secretariat to prepare a new document containing the views expressed by member States on the basis of the informal list of topics referred to in paragraph 21 of document A/35/29 and submitted to the Secretariat in reply to a letter to be transmitted by the Chairman of the Committee for the purpose of soliciting such views. In this connection, the Secretariat would classify the written submissions under appropriate headings. Subsequently, on 29 April 1983, the Chairman of the Committee sent a letter to the members of the Committee requesting them to submit their views on the relevant aspects referred to above. The views of member States were incorporated into a background paper entitled "Views expressed by member States of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean on the basis of the informal list of topics referred to in paragraph 21 of its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session" (A/AC.159/L.55 and Add.1-5).

22. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare an updated version of the background paper entitled "Resolutions, declarations and final communiqués related to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/AC.159/L.17). It was agreed that, in compiling the updated document, the Secretariat should follow the same guidelines that had been used in compiling document A/AC.159/L.17. The Committee decided to request the Chairman to continue his consultations on the final contents of the document, in accordance with the decision of the Committee on the matter.

23. During the exchange of views under item 4 of the agenda, some delegations expressed the view that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area had established the urgency for the early convening of the Conference, and that the early establishment of a zone of peace as contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI) would, inter alia, contribute to strengthening the security of States within the zone and to international peace and security as a whole. Other delegations took the view, however, that until the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues had been achieved, and until there was closer agreement on the scope and nature of a zone of peace and on how the Conference would contribute to its establishment, the setting of conference dates

was premature, and that the prevailing political and security climate in the region prejudiced the likelihood of success of any such conference.

24. At the 224th meeting, on 15 July 1983, the Chairman, on behalf of his Government, informed the Committee that Sri Lanka was ready to act as host to the Conference on the Indian Ocean from 4 to 22 June 1984, at Colombo. However, the Committee was unable to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening of the Conference during 1984.

25. The Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions in 1984 during which it continued its organizational and substantive preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean. It decided to meet in formal and informal sessions and to give equal time to organizational work related to the Conference and to substantive issues related to the zone of peace. In its consideration of substantive issues, the Committee agreed that account would be taken, inter alia, of the political and security climate in the region and of the characteristics of the zone as described in documents before the Committee. It would also give consideration to all other documents before the Committee.

26. On 23 March 1984, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a paper entitled "Draft framework of the provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.60). The Committee subsequently decided to request the Secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for the Conference. The "Draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean" are contained in document A/AC.159/L.61.

27. At its 248th meeting, on 12 July 1984, the Committee agreed to accept the following formulation concerning the decision-making process in the Committee presented by the Chairman:

"The procedure of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in the matter of making decisions has recently received the attention of the Committee.

"On the basis of consultations held by the Chairman with delegations and groups of delegations in the Committee, there is general recognition among delegations of the importance and desirability of securing the widest acceptance of decisions affecting the Indian Ocean. It is the understanding of the Chairman that the Committee shall continue to function on the basis of its normal methods of work and all delegations have agreed that decisions in matters affecting the Indian Ocean are taken by consensus, it being understood that consensus means the absence of any formal objection submitted by a delegation against taking a decision."

The above formulation on the decision-making process was meant to guide the Committee's work and applied to decisions affecting the Indian Ocean. It was clearly not intended to be taken as a precedent applicable to other discussions and negotiations.

28. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/149, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions in 1985. It held 30 formal meetings and a number of informal meetings, and, as in the previous year, the Committee decided that equal time would be given to both organizational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean.

29. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat prepared two conference room papers, one entitled "Amendments, revisions and comments concerning document A/AC.159/L.60" and the other entitled "Amendments, revisions and comments concerning document A/AC.159/L.61".

30. During its second session, from 28 March to 4 April 1985, the Ad Hoc Committee, in informal meetings, completed its second reading of the draft rules of procedure and considered verbal and written amendments submitted by members. It also identified specific rules on which further consideration was required. With regard to the question of participation in the Colombo Conference, some members expressed the opinion that it should be open to universal participation. Other delegations expressed the view that such matters could not be dealt with in isolation and should be resolved at a later stage. Further, there emerged broadly based support for a proposal to establish a working group for the consideration of substantive issues. Some delegations expressed the view that such a working group should consider substantive issues and then proceed to the preparation of a draft final document for the Colombo Conference. Other delegations were of the opinion that, while many of the matters that would be discussed by such a working group might well be included in a draft final document to be prepared at an appropriate time, a decision as to the drafting of such a document should be left to the Ad Hoc Committee itself once the working group had completed its task. At its 288th meeting, on 11 July 1985, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group.

31. During the discussions in 1985, differences remained on the question of the circumstances under which a successful Conference could be convened. Some delegations were of the view that the preparatory work identified in paragraph 5 of resolution 39/149 should be dealt with expeditiously in order to facilitate the opening of the Conference as requested in paragraph 4 of that resolution. They emphasized that the deterioration of the situation in the Indian Ocean region was the very reason that lent urgency to the convening of the Conference. Other delegations expressed the view that a more clear understanding of other fundamental matters, such as the scope, definition and meaning of the zone of peace, was necessary prior to the convening of the Conference. Those delegations also believed that an amelioration of the prevailing political and security climate in the region was essential for such a conference to be successful.

32. The Ad Hoc Committee held 13 formal meetings and a number of informal meetings during its two sessions in 1986. At its 294th meeting, on 25 March 1986, it decided that, in its preparatory work, adequate time would be given to both organizational and substantive issues. It decided further to establish an open-ended Working Group that would convene during the scheduled sessions of the Committee with a mandate to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive issues relating to the establishment of a zone of peace with a view, inter alia, to recommending to the Committee elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. The Committee agreed that its own meetings and those of the open-ended Working Group would not take place concurrently. The Working Group held a total of nine meetings in the course of the two sessions of the Committee in 1986.

33. At a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee held on 14 July 1986, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Nihal Rodrigo (Sri Lanka), introduced an informal paper based on documents before the Committee and entitled "Elements which might be taken into

consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, as called for in General Assembly resolution 39/149". Some delegations accepted the Chairman's informal paper as a suitable basis for discussion. A number of delegations felt that, in view of its importance, it should be annexed to the report of the Committee. Some other delegations, while also expressing their appreciation for the Chairman's efforts, considered that more fundamental questions needed to be addressed first. They were also of the view that, given the importance of other documents before the Committee, it would not be appropriate to select only one of them to be annexed to the report of the Committee. All delegations agreed that discussions in the Working Group should be structured.

34. In 1987, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions, during which it met in 17 formal meetings and a number of informal meetings. It decided that its open-ended Working Group would continue to meet during the scheduled sessions of the Committee and to work with the same mandate given to it earlier. The Working Group held a total of 11 meetings during the course of the two sessions.

35. At a meeting held on 3 April 1987, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, a working paper entitled "Stages of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.74, annex). Another working paper, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.75, annex), was introduced to the Committee on 26 June 1987 by the representative of the German Democratic Republic on behalf of a group of socialist States members of the Committee. During the sessions held in 1987, the open-ended Working Group continued to operate under the mandate given to it in 1985. To facilitate the work of the Working Group, its Chairman prepared and presented to it on 30 June an informal paper which contained a list of 20 points. All delegations agreed that the informal paper should help to structure future discussion in the Working Group. The Working Group made progress in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 1987. It was agreed that the Working Group should continue to function within its mandate.

36. At the 316th meeting, on 26 June 1987, the representative of Sri Lanka informed the Committee of a formal offer by his Government to act as host to one of the sessions of the Committee in 1988 at Colombo. While some members welcomed and supported the offer, others expressed reservations on the holding of sessions of the Committee outside New York.

37. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/43, the Ad Hoc Committee held its first session in 1988 from 11 to 15 April. The Committee held nine formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings.

38. At its 323rd meeting, on 11 April 1988, the Committee adopted its agenda for 1988. At the same meeting, the Chairman presented a text concerning the organization of work, which was subsequently adopted by consensus.

39. During the nine formal meetings (323rd to 331st meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee considered item 7 of its agenda.

40. At the 323rd meeting, on 11 April 1988, the Chairman introduced the draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its third special session on disarmament (A/AC.159/L.80), containing the draft text of the introduction and section I of the draft report. At the same meeting, the representative of

Sri Lanka introduced, on behalf of the Non-Aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, a draft text of section II of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its third special session on disarmament (A/AC.159/L.81). At the 327th meeting, on 13 April 1988, the representative of Australia introduced, on behalf of the Western European and other States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, a draft text of section II of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its third special session on disarmament (A/AC.159/L.82).

41. During the first session in 1988, the Committee considered and welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of Sri Lanka to hold the second preparatory session in 1988 at Colombo. A large number of delegations considered it an important step on the road to the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. As reflected in the summary record of the 330th meeting of the Committee, the Chairman ruled that a decision to hold the second session in Colombo could not be arrived at owing to a formal objection raised by one delegation.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

42. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean remain convinced that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security as well as the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region. Agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations which could have beneficial effects on the region.

43. The Ad Hoc Committee observed that the General Assembly, in its deliberations and by the relevant resolutions adopted during the period covered in the present report (1982-1987), while expressing its deep concern at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the Indian Ocean area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which affected particularly seriously the littoral and hinterland States in the region as well as international peace and security, had reaffirmed the importance of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and its implementation.

44. The Ad Hoc Committee recalled that the General Assembly, at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, had taken note of the importance of the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, and declared that such zones could contribute to the strengthening of the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole.

45. The Ad Hoc Committee recalled that the General Assembly, at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, had considered the matter of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and had approved the report of its Ad Hoc Committee by decision S-12/24 of 10 July 1982.

46. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean further recalled that, in the implementation of its mandate, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, progress had been made by the Working Group in its meetings during the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1987, and that the Assembly, at its forty-second session, by its resolution 42/43, had requested the Committee to complete the remaining work and noted that the Committee would give consideration to ways and means of more effectively organizing its work during its subsequent sessions in order to enable the early convening of the Conference at Colombo, but not later than 1990. The Committee noted that a large number of delegations had expressed regret that the Committee was unable to reach a decision to hold the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee in Colombo pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 42/43.

47. The Ad Hoc Committee urges the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament to reaffirm its full support for the implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean. In order to facilitate the intensification of the Ad Hoc Committee's work towards the implementation of its mandate and to enable the

completion of its remaining preparatory work for the early convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as repeatedly called for by the Assembly, in particular in its resolution 42/43, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend to it all necessary assistance.

Notes

1/ The 15 members were: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.

2/ The three new members were: Bangladesh, Kenya and Somalia.

3/ The five new members were: Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Greece, Mozambique and Oman.

4/ The 22 new members were: Bulgaria, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, Maldives, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Romania, Seychelles, Singapore, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

5/ The three members were: United Arab Emirates (see A/37/811), Uganda (see A/38/828) and Zimbabwe (see A/41/987).

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/S-12/5).

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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