

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1983 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT
TRANSMITTING THE RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT ADOPTED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

I have the honour to transmit herewith the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, which entrust specific responsibilities to the Committee on Disarmament. The relevant provisions of those resolutions are reproduced in the Annex.

For the information of the Committee, I also have the honour to transmit herewith other resolutions and decisions dealing with disarmament matters, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

In addition, I should like to draw your attention to the resolutions listed in the Annex which relate to disarmament matters.

(Signed) Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

ANNEX

I. Resolutions dealing with disarmament matters

(a) Resolutions that entrust specific responsibilities to the Committee on Disarmament

At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions entrusting specific responsibilities to the Committee on Disarmament:

- 37/72 "Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons"
- 37/73 "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty"
- 37/77 A "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons"
- 37/78 C "Nuclear weapons in all aspects"
- 37/78 E "Prohibition of the nuclear neutron weapon"
- 37/78 F "Implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the tenth special session"
- 37/78 G "Report of the Committee on Disarmament"
- 37/78 I "Prevention of nuclear war"
- 37/80 "Conclusion of an international convention to the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons"
- 37/81 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons"
- 37/83 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space"
- 37/85 "Immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests"
- 37/98 A "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons"
- 37/98 B "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons"

- 37/98 D "Provisional procedures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol"
- 37/99 A "Non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present"
- 37/99 C "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons"
- 37/99 D "Prevention of an arms race in outer space and prohibition of anti-satellite systems"
- 37/99 E "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes"
- 37/99 K "Institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament"
- 37/100 C "Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons"

The Committee's attention should be drawn, in particular, to the following provisions contained in those resolutions:

(1) In resolution 37/72, operative paragraph 5 urges all States members of the Committee on Disarmament: (a) to bear in mind that if the consensus rule should not be used in such a manner as to prevent the establishment of subsidiary bodies for the effective discharge of the functions of the Committee, neither should it be used to prevent the approval of appropriate mandates for such subsidiary bodies; (b) to assign to the Ad Hoc Working Group on item 1 of the Committee's agenda (nuclear test ban) a mandate which should provide for the multilateral negotiation of a treaty for the prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests, to be initiated immediately after the beginning of the session of the Committee to be held in 1983; (c) to exert their best endeavours in order that the Committee may transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session the multilaterally negotiated text of such a treaty.

(2) In resolution 37/73, operative paragraph 4 notes that the Committee on Disarmament, in the exercise of its responsibilities as the multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, established on 21 April 1982 an Ad Hoc Working Group under item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear test ban", and, considering that discussion of specific issues in the first instance might facilitate progress towards negotiation of a nuclear test ban, requested the Ad Hoc Working Group to: (a) discuss and define, through substantive examination, issues relating to verification and compliance, with a view to making further progress towards a nuclear

test ban; (b) take into account all existing proposals and future initiatives and report to the Committee on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the session of 1982; operative paragraph 5 also notes that the Committee on Disarmament agreed that it would thereafter take a decision on subsequent courses of action with a view to fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard; operative paragraph 6 further notes that the Ad Hoc Working Group has initiated consideration of the issues under its mandate: operative paragraph 7 requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the consideration of these issues and to take the necessary steps to initiate substantive negotiations in order that the draft of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be submitted to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date; operative paragraph 8 urges all members of the Committee on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to co-operate with the Committee in fulfilling these tasks; operative paragraph 9 also requests the Committee on Disarmament to determine, in the context of its negotiations on such a treaty, the institutional and administrative arrangements necessary for establishing, testing and operating an international seismic monitoring network and an effective verification system; and operative paragraph 10 calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to report on progress to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(3) In resolution 37/77 A, operative paragraph 1 requests the Committee on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to intensify negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, with a view to preparing a draft comprehensive agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, and to draft possible agreements on particular types of such weapons; and operative paragraph 5 requests the Committee on Disarmament to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-eighth session.

(4) In resolution 37/78 C, operative paragraph 1 calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to proceed without delay to negotiations on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, in accordance with paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and especially to elaborate a nuclear disarmament programme, and to establish for this purpose an ad hoc working group on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and on nuclear disarmament.

(5) In resolution 37/78 E, operative paragraph 1 reaffirms its request to the Committee on Disarmament to start without delay negotiations within an appropriate organizational framework with a view to concluding a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear neutron weapons, and operative paragraph 3 requests the Committee on Disarmament to

submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(6) In resolution 37/78 F, operative paragraph 5 calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to concentrate its work on the substantive and priority items on its agenda, to proceed to negotiations on nuclear disarmament without further delay and to elaborate, as soon as possible, drafts of international agreements on those disarmament issues which have been the object of negotiations over a number of years, particularly a treaty on a nuclear-weapon test ban and on a complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction; and operative paragraph 6 calls upon members of the Committee on Disarmament, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to show a greater measure of readiness and flexibility in further negotiations on the elaboration of a draft comprehensive programme of disarmament and thus enable the Committee to submit, pursuant to the decision of the twelfth special session, a revised draft of such a programme to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(7) In resolution 37/78 G, operative paragraph 1 urges the Committee on Disarmament to continue or undertake, during its session to be held in 1983, substantive negotiations on the priority questions of disarmament on its agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on those questions, and, in order to reach that goal, to provide the existing ad hoc working groups with appropriate negotiating mandates and to establish, as a matter of urgency, an ad hoc working group on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; operative paragraph 2 requests the Committee on Disarmament to intensify its work, to make the utmost effort to achieve concrete results in the shortest possible period of time and to prepare draft international agreements on the specific priority issues of disarmament on its agenda, above all on a treaty on a nuclear-weapon test ban and on the complete and effective prohibition of all chemical weapons and on their destruction; operative paragraph 3 also requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue as from the beginning of its session in 1983, in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, its intensive work on the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament and to submit the revised draft of such a programme to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session; and operative paragraph 5 further requests the Committee on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(8) In resolution 37/78 I, operative paragraph 1 requests the Committee on Disarmament to undertake, as a matter of the highest priority, negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on appropriate and practical measures for the prevention of nuclear war, taking into account the documents referred to in the preambular part of that resolution, as well as other existing proposals and future initiatives.

(9) In resolution 37/80, operative paragraph 2 notes with satisfaction that in the Committee on Disarmament there is once again no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; operative paragraph 3 requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on the question of the strengthening of the security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States during its session in 1983; and operative paragraph 4 calls once again upon all States participating in these negotiations to make efforts to elaborate and conclude an international instrument of a legally binding character, such as an international convention, on this matter.

(10) In resolution 37/81, operative paragraph 2 notes with satisfaction that in the Committee on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out; operative paragraph 4 recommends that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for a common approach or common formula which could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character and that the various alternative approaches, including in particular those considered in the Committee on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties; and operative paragraph 5 recommends that the Committee on Disarmament should actively continue negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective.

(11) In resolution 37/83, operative paragraph 5 requests the Committee on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space; operative paragraph 6 further requests the Committee on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc working group on the subject at the beginning of its session in 1983, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an

agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in outer space; and operative paragraph 7 requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(12) In resolution 37/85, operative paragraph 1 urges the Committee on Disarmament to proceed promptly to practical negotiations with a view to elaborating a draft treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests; and operative paragraph 2 refers to the Committee on Disarmament for its consideration the basic provisions of such a treaty, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the text of which is annexed to the resolution, as well as the proposals and observations made by other States on this question in the course of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

(13) In resolution 37/98 A, operative paragraph 3 urges the Committee on Disarmament to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons on the basis of its new mandate to achieve accord on a chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date.

(14) In resolution 37/98 B, operative paragraph 3 urges the Committee on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to intensify, during its session in 1983, the elaboration of a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives with a view to enabling the Committee to achieve agreement at the earliest date, and to re-establish its Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons for this purpose; and operative paragraph 4 requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(15) In resolution 37/98 D, operative paragraph 3 calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to expedite its negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons with a view to its submission to the General Assembly with the shortest possible delay.

(16) In resolution 37/99 A, operative paragraph 1 requests once again the Committee on Disarmament to proceed without delay to talks with a view to elaborating an international agreement on the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present; and operative paragraph 5 requests the Committee on Disarmament to submit a report on the question to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(17) In resolution 37/99 C, operative paragraph 1 requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations with a view to an early conclusion of the elaboration of a treaty prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons in order that it may be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session; operative paragraph 2 further requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue its search for a solution to the question of prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities, including the scope of such prohibition, taking into account all proposals submitted to it to this end; and operative paragraph 3 takes note of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons, in the report adopted by the Committee on Disarmament, to establish at the beginning of its session to be held in 1983, an ad hoc working group, to continue negotiations on the prohibition of radiological weapons.

(18) In resolution 37/99 D, operative paragraph 3 requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue substantive consideration of: (a) the question of negotiating effective and verifiable agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, taking into account all existing and future proposals designed to meet this objective; (b) as a matter of priority, the question of negotiating an effective and verifiable agreement to prohibit anti-satellite systems as an important step towards the fulfilment of the objectives set out in sub-paragraph (a) above; operative paragraph 4 expresses the hope that the Committee on Disarmament will take the appropriate steps, such as the possible establishment of a working group, in order to promote the objectives set forth in operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of the resolution; and operative paragraph 5 requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on the consideration given to this subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

(19) In resolution 37/99 E, its operative paragraph requests the Committee on Disarmament, at an appropriate stage of its work on the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to pursue its consideration of the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the General Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration.

(20) In resolution 37/99 K, the operative paragraph of Part I requests the Committee on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the review of the membership of the Committee, taking into account paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and paragraphs 55 and 62 of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session; and the

operative paragraph of Part II commends to the Committee on Disarmament that it consider designating itself as a conference without prejudice to paragraph 120 of the Final Document.

(21) In resolution 37/100 C, operative paragraph 1 requests the Committee on Disarmament to undertake, on a priority basis, negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a basis the text of the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to that resolution.

In the above-mentioned resolutions 37/77 A, 37/78 E, 37/78 I, 37/83, 37/99 A and 37/99 C, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on Disarmament all relevant documents. They are the following:

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| 37/77 A | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/297, A/37/333-S/15278, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/L.43, A/C.1/37/L.46 and Rev.1 and A/37/659. |
| 37/78 E | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/42, A/37/297, A/37/380, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/L.25 and A/37/662. |
| 37/78 I | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/42, A/37/380, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/4, A/C.1/37/8, A/C.1/37/L.11. A/C.1/37/L.45 and A/37/662. |
| 37/83 | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/4, A/C.1/37/L.8, A/C.1/37/L.41 and A/37/667. |
| 37/99 A | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/L.18 and A/37/667. |
| 37/99 C | A/37/27 and Corr.1, A/37/578, A/C.1/37/L.33 and A/37/667. |

The relevant records of the consideration of the subjects covered by those resolutions transmitting documentation are contained in documents A/37/PV.5 to 34, A/37/RV.98, A/37/PV.101, A/C.1/37/PV.3 to 45 and A/C.1/37/PV.47, 48, 50, 57 and 58.

All those documents and records were distributed during the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all Members of the Committee on Disarmament.

(b) Other resolutions dealing with disarmament matters

At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly also adopted the following resolutions dealing with disarmament matters:

- 37/70 "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security"
- 37/71 "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/83 concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)"
- 37/74 A "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa"
- 37/74 B "Nuclear capability of South Africa"
- 37/75 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East"
- 37/76 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia"
- 37/77 B "Renunciation of the use of new discoveries and scientific and technical achievements for military purposes"
- 37/78 A "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session"
- 37/78 B "International co-operation for disarmament"
- 37/78 D "Disarmament Week"
- 37/78 H "Report of the Disarmament Commission"
- 37/78 J "Non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war"

- 37/78 K "Monitoring of international disarmament agreements and strengthening of international security: proposal for the establishment of an international satellite monitoring agency"
- 37/79 "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"
- 37/82 "Israeli nuclear armament"
- 37/84 "Relationship between disarmament and development"
- 37/95 A "Reduction of military budgets"
- 37/95 B "Reduction of military budgets"
- 37/96 "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace"
- 37/97 "World Disarmament Conference"
- 37/98 C "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons"
- 37/98 E "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons"
- 37/99 B "Report of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues"
- 37/99 F "Review and supplement of the comprehensive study on the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects"
- 37/99 G "Measures to provide objective information on military capabilities"
- 37/99 H "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof"

- 37/99 I "Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques"
- 37/99 J "Military research and development"
- 37/100 A "Freeze on nuclear weapons"
- 37/100 B "Nuclear arms freeze"
- 37/100 D "Confidence-building measures"
- 37/100 E "Disarmament and international security"
- 37/100 F "Regional disarmament"
- 37/100 G "United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament"
- 37/100 H "World Disarmament Campaign"
- 37/100 I "World Disarmament Campaign"
- 37/100 J "World Disarmament Campaign; peace and disarmament movements"

II. Resolutions related to disarmament matters

It should also be noted that, at its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions which are related to disarmament matters:

- 37/10 "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States"
- 37/18 "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security"
- 37/19 "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency"
- 37/87 "Effects of atomic radiation"
- 37/89 "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space"

- 37/90 "Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space"
- 37/93 "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects"
- 37/102 "Draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind"
- 37/105 "Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principles of Non-Use of Force in International Relations"
- 37/117 "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States"
- 37/118 "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security"
- 37/119 "Implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security"
- 37/167 "United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy".