



General Assembly

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31 October 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 64

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Italy: draft resolution

International transfer of conventional armaments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in strengthening international peace and security and promoting disarmament,

Recalling that, in article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Underlining the importance of regional arms control agreements for achieving such a high goal,

Bearing in mind the inherent right to self-defence embodied in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking into account the need of States to protect their security,

Considering that expenses for conventional armaments absorb more than 80 per cent of world global military expenditure and that, while clandestine and illicit arms trade are increasing, the nature and means of international arms transfers have become more complex and the responsibilities involved have been clouded by uncertainty,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, whereby in paragraph 22 the General Assembly states that "there should also be negotiations on the limitation of international transfer of conventional weapons",

Convinced that new efforts need to be deployed towards lowering the level of conventional armaments throughout the world, and curbing the arms trade whenever it represents a threat to international or regional security,

Recalling the conclusions reached by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in its Final Document, 2/ whereby in paragraphs 25 and 35 it states that "the use of resources for military purposes amounts to a reduction of resources for the civilian sector" and invites the participating States to consider "the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures",

1. Stresses the need to promote restraint and greater transparency in the transfers of conventional arms with a view to keeping these armaments at the lowest possible level in all regions of the world;

2. Invites all Governments to abstain from supplying arms to areas of conflict, avoiding the aggravation of such conflicts and of situations of tension;

3. Calls upon Governments which are the main suppliers and buyers of armaments to consult on how to strengthen the existing co-operation aimed at constraining international illicit trade of conventional armaments and to identify possible additional measures to curb it;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out, with the assistance of governmental experts and on the basis of information provided by Member States, a study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis, as well as on the problem of illicit arms trade and on means to prevent it, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, in 1990;

5. Invites all Governments to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and proposals on these matters for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989;

6. Decides to include in its forty-fourth session the question of promoting transparency in international arms transfers and preventing the illicit arms trade.

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.



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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic,
Hungary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 105 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, which encourages Member States to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments, and to concentrate on the danger of escalation of the armaments race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking into account the exchange of views on openness in the military field at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

Noting with satisfaction that the beginning of genuine nuclear disarmament as a result of the conclusion of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles has led to greater openness in the military field,

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

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Believing that the adoption of measures designed to build confidence and increase openness could help to prevent misconceptions about military capabilities and intentions which could prompt States to undertake armaments programmes leading to the acceleration of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and to heightened international tension,

Believing that objective information on all military matters, in particular those involving nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, could contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements, and thereby help to halt and reverse the arms race,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question, submitted to the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament; 2/
2. Reiterates its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on all military matters could help to ease international tension and confidence among States on a global, regional or subregional level and facilitate the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements;
3. Calls upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to implement further measures based on the principles of openness and transparency which will facilitate the provision of objective information on, and the objective assessment of, military capabilities and contribute to the disarmament process;
4. Requests all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, not later than 1989, their views concerning ways and means of building confidence and increasing openness in military matters for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;
5. Further requests all Member States also to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on ways and means of further consolidating the emerging trend towards greater openness in military matters, specifically with regard to the provision of objective information on military matters for consideration by the Disarmament Commission at its session in 1990;
6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters".
