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Forty-third session  
FIRST COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 64

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy,  
Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Samoa and Sweden, revised  
draft resolution

International arms transfers

The General Assembly,

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

Bearing in mind that, in 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,

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

Taking into account the general principles outlined in paragraph 22 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ in particular that "there should also be negotiations on the limitation of international transfer of conventional weapons",

Also taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations studies on conventional disarmament, 2/ all aspects of regional

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IX.1.

disarmament, 3/ the economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures, 4/ the relationship between disarmament and development, 5/ reduction of military budgets, 6/ the relationship between disarmament and international security, 7/ and confidence-building measures, 8/

Further taking into account the Programme of Action set forth in the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, 9/

1. Expresses its conviction that arms transfers in all their aspects deserve serious consideration by the international community, inter alia, because of:

(a) The potentially harmful effects in areas where tension and regional conflict threaten international peace and security and national security;

(b) Their known and potential negative effects on the process of the peaceful social and economic development of all peoples;

(c) Increasing illicit and covert arms trafficking;

2. Requests Member States to consider, inter alia, the following measures relating to these concerns:

(a) Reinforcement of their national systems of control and vigilance concerning production and transport of arms;

(b) Examination of ways and means of refraining from acquiring arms additional to those needed for legitimate national security requirements, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region;

(c) Pursuit by exporting and importing States of agreements or arrangements providing for more openness and transparency with regard to world-wide arms transfers, including the possibility of establishing a system for Member States to report information on arms transfers to the United Nations, on a universal and non-discriminatory basis;

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3/ A/35/416.

4/ A/43/368.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.1.

6/ A/35/479.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.4.

8/ Ibid., Sales No. E.82.IX.3.

9/ Ibid., Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to take into account the above-mentioned matters in its deliberations on the issue of conventional disarmament;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present resolution and to collect all other relevant information for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out, thereafter, with the assistance of governmental experts, a study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis, also taking into consideration the views of Member States as well as other relevant information, including on the problem of illicit arms trade, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Requests also the Secretary-General to make available, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, information concerning the question of arms transfers and their consequences for international peace and security;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "International arms transfers".

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