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Agenda item 61

**PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS:
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/35 of 30 November 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, 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 12 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely items 51 to 69 and 139, 141 and 145. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 17 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 3 and 18 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.26-43).
4. In connection with item 61, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) Letter dated 2 February 1988 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Stockholm Declaration, adopted on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478);

(c) Letter dated 27 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the seventy-ninth session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Guatemala City from 8 to 16 April 1988 (A/43/370);

(d) Letter dated 29 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/667-S/20212);

(e) Letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-third session of the General Assembly held in New York on 3 October 1988 (A/43/709).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/43/L.38 AND Rev.1

5. On 31 October 1988, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons" (A/C.1/43/L.38), which was later also sponsored by Cuba and Democratic Yemen. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 31st meeting, on 9 November.

6. On 14 November, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.38/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27).

(a) Operative paragraph 1, which had read:

"1. Reaffirms that to help prevent a qualitative arms race and so that scientific and technological achievements may ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes, effective measures should be taken to avoid the danger and prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction based on new scientific principles and achievements;"

was replaced by a paragraph reading:

"1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be undertaken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;"

(b) Operative paragraph 3, which had read:

"3. Calls upon all States, immediately following the identification of any new type of weapon of mass destruction, to commence negotiations on its prohibition and to refrain from any action that could adversely affect the negotiations;"

was replaced by a paragraph reading:

"3. Calls upon all States, immediately following the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to these recommendations;"

(c) Operative paragraph 4, which had read:

"4. Calls again upon all States to undertake efforts to ensure that ultimately scientific and technological achievements may be used solely for peaceful purposes;"

was deleted and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(d) In operative paragraph 7 (now operative paragraph 6), the phrase "forty-fourth session" was replaced by "forty-fifth session".

7. At its 39th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic orally revised draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.38/Rev.1, as follows:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Recalling paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/ in which it is stated that, in order to help prevent a qualitative arms race and so that scientific and technological achievements might ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes, effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction based on new scientific principles and achievements, and that

efforts aiming at the prohibition of such new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction should be appropriately pursued",

was replaced by a paragraph reading:

"Noting paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly," 1/.

8. At its 42nd meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.38/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 134 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 9). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of
weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Noting paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948, 3/

Noting that in the course of its 1988 session the Conference on Disarmament considered the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",

Taking into account the section of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 4/

1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be undertaken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;
2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to keep under review, with expert assistance, as appropriate, the questions of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on the identified types of such weapons;
3. Calls upon all States, immediately following the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to these recommendations;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

3/ The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27), sect. III.G.

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-fourth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; report of the Conference on Disarmament".
