

and the suggestions of the parties of the region, and to submit this study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* parties of the region to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions with respect to the measures called for in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

*73rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1988*

#### 43/66. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986 and 42/29 of 30 November 1987 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

*Reiterating its conviction* that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures which can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

*Believing* that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Noting with appreciation* the declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

*Welcoming* the recent proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

*Taking note* of the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

*Bearing in mind* the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>13</sup> regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>15</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. *Urges once again* the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the mean time, from any action contrary to this objective;

3. *Calls upon* those nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

*73rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1988*

#### 43/67. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 32/152 of 19 December 1977, 35/153 of 12 December 1980, 36/93 of 9 December 1981, 37/79 of 9 December 1982, 38/66 of 15 December 1983, 39/56 of 12 December 1984, 40/84 of 12 December 1985, 41/50 of 3 December 1986 and 42/30 of 30 November 1987,

*Recalling with satisfaction* the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>16</sup> together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),<sup>16</sup> the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)<sup>16</sup> and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),<sup>16</sup>

*Reaffirming its conviction* that general agreement on the prohibition or restriction of use of specific conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilian populations and of combatants,

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>17</sup>

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that an increasing number of States have either signed, ratified, accepted or acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981;

2. *Also notes with satisfaction* that, consequent upon the fulfilment of the conditions set out in article 5 of the Convention, the Convention and the three Protocols annexed thereto entered into force on 2 December 1983;

<sup>15</sup> A/43/505.

<sup>16</sup> See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

<sup>17</sup> A/43/589.

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to exert their best endeavours to become parties to the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto as early as possible, so as ultimately to obtain universality of adherence;

4. *Notes* that, under article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to consider amendments to the Convention or any of the annexed Protocols, to consider additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols, or to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments to the Convention or to the existing Protocols and any proposals for additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing Protocols;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General as depositary of the Convention and its three annexed Protocols to inform the General Assembly from time to time of the state of adherence to the Convention and its Protocols;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

73rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1988

**43/68. Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Deeply concerned* at the continuing escalation of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and the possibility of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Convinced* that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of war,

*Considering* that, until complete nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

*Noting* the general desire to conclude effective international measures to that end at an early date,

*Noting also* the unilateral declarations on the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, made by all nuclear-weapon States,

*Desirous* of promoting the implementation of paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>13</sup> the first special session devoted to disarmament,

*Recognizing* that effective measures of such security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States would constitute an important contribution to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

*Aware* of the in-depth negotiations on this subject in the Conference on Disarmament during the past ten years,

*Recalling* the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament<sup>18</sup> submitted to the General

Assembly at its twelfth special session,<sup>19</sup> the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,<sup>20</sup> the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as of the annual report of the Conference on its 1988 session,<sup>21</sup>

*Welcoming* the unanimous support in the Conference on Disarmament for continuing the search for a common approach to the substance of negative security assurances and, in particular, to a "common formula", which could be included in a legally binding instrument,

*Recognizing* the need for a fresh look at the issue, in particular by the nuclear-weapon States, in order to overcome the difficulties encountered at the negotiations in previous years,

*Taking note* of the proposals on this subject submitted to the Conference on Disarmament,<sup>21</sup>

*Considering* that the non-nuclear-weapon States having no nuclear weapons on their territories have every right to receive reliable, uniform and unconditional international legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need, pending the achievement of complete nuclear disarmament, to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference on Disarmament pursue intensive negotiations in its *Ad Hoc* Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons at the beginning of its 1989 session, with a view to reaching such an agreement, taking into account the widespread support in the Conference for the conclusion of an international convention;

3. *Appeals* to all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to demonstrate willingness and to exercise the flexibility necessary to reach agreement on a common approach to, including the possibility of a common formula in, an international instrument or instruments of a legally binding character, to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

73rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1988

**43/69. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

*Convinced* that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

<sup>19</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27), sect. III.F.*

<sup>18</sup> The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.