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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)

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ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 43 TO 63, 139, 141, 143 AND 144 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: This morning the Committee will begin taking action on the draft resolutions under disarmament items which appear in cluster 1. If time allows, we shall take up those in cluster 2 of the suggested programme at today's two meetings.

The draft resolutions in cluster 1 are listed in the document I distributed at our meeting last Thursday, as follows: A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1, L.5, L.9, L.14, L.17, L.21/Rev.1, L.23/Rev.1, L.31 - with an amendment submitted by Brazil in document A/C.1/38/L.71-L.39, L.58 and L.62.

As I said, if time allows, we shall proceed to cluster 2, containing draft resolutions A/C.1/38/L.52 and L.66. However, at this stage we shall not take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.8/Rev.1 - also in cluster 2 - because we are still waiting for the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the draft statutes for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

I suggest that delegations wishing to speak on the draft resolutions under cluster 1 be invited to do so at the outset. When that has been concluded, delegations wishing to explain their votes on any or all draft resolutions contained in the cluster before the voting, may do so. Of course, decisions will be taken, not on the clusters as such but on each individual draft resolution.

After we have taken decisions on the draft resolutions in cluster 1 - including a decision on the amendment submitted by Brazil - those delegations wishing to explain their votes after the voting will be given an opportunity to do so. When we have completed that process, we shall move on to the second cluster and proceed in a similar manner.

If that is acceptable to delegations, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to make statements on the draft resolutions in cluster 1.

Mr. SHARMA (India): On behalf of the delegation of India, I should like to make a statement with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1.

(Mr. Sharma, India)

India will abstain on this draft resolution. India's position on the goal, priorities and basic approach in the field of disarmament is well known. Those views remain unchanged. India's substantive position on the ongoing United Nations study on conventional disarmament is determined by its position of principle. Briefly, it is that the highest priority in the field of disarmament should be accorded to measures aimed at nuclear disarmament and at the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Nothing should be done to divert attention from the priority objectives and tasks, nor should the time and energies of the international community be wasted on non-priority issues, particularly at this juncture, when the escalating nuclear-arms race poses a grave threat to the very survival of mankind.

The present draft resolution, A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1, which is of a procedural nature, asks for one more year to complete the ongoing study. India has no objection to agreeing to this request for more time.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I have not asked to speak on the draft resolutions. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to the amendment contained in document A/C.1/38/L.71.

The draft resolution this amendment would modify is not the result of improvization. It is the product of much reflection and many exchanges of views with the largest possible number of delegations and takes into account the deliberations and debates that took place in Geneva throughout the 1983 session of the Committee on Disarmament - now known as the Conference on Disarmament. Finally, it is also the result of the meetings that you, Sir, set aside for the consideration of the comprehensive programme of disarmament at this session of the General Assembly.

The draft resolution is worded in language aimed at meeting with the approval of all delegations. Hence it is drafted in general terms, in an attempt to avoid including anything controversial whatsoever.

We regret that the delegation of Brazil, which is well aware of what I have just said, should have decided to submit the amendment in document A/C.1/38/L.71. We feel this is a totally unnecessary amendment running counter to the powers given to the Committee on Disarmament in the Final Document. It is an amendment which, were it accepted, would provide a kind of smoke-screen for all those who do not want a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

I am sure that all representatives will agree with me that the Committee on Disarmament - in which, as everybody knows, there are 40 delegations which have been working constantly on disarmament questions and have acquired much experience - and those delegations do not need another body, whose functions are well defined, to come and tell it what needs to be done.

In addition, in the third preambular paragraph, after mentioning the sole norm or rule which cannot be challenged - what is set out in the Final Document - in the last paragraph complete flexibility is given so that, if possible, in 1984, we can draw up and adopt the draft of a complete programme; and, if that is impossible, there should just be a deadline, the forty-first session of the General Assembly at the latest.

For all those reasons, at this late hour, I very much hope the representative of Brazil will not insist on his amendment. If he does, my delegation will, much to its regret, have to vote against it, and, judging from my hasty consultations with the other sponsors of A/C.1/38/L.31, they will also have to vote against it.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil): I think I should thank our colleague, Ambassador Garcia Robles, for introducing my amendment, because I had not yet introduced its text. However, he introduced it in a very negative way and, if I may, I shall state the reasons for this amendment.

He said the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/38/L.31 derived from very thorough studies; I must say I did the same thing concerning the amendment proposed today by my delegation. This is a subject that has been given serious consideration not only by my delegation; I have held very wide consultations with many delegations in the First Committee, both in the group of non-aligned States and in the other two groups.

These reasons are as follows: first, the Committee on Disarmament has tried unsuccessfully for four years to draft a comprehensive programme of disarmament; secondly, the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament has itself also failed in its endeavour to have a draft programme accepted by all delegations; and, thirdly, the guidelines for the programme were adopted by consensus by the United Nations Disarmament Commission, which comprises the whole membership of the United Nations.

(Mr. Souza e Silva, Brazil)

Therefore, I think it is not fair to keep the subject restricted to 40 delegations of the United Nations - leaving aside the rest of the membership of the United Nations, which has set up guidelines for this programme - and not give the whole membership a chance to review its work and propose some other guidelines if necessary, in order that we may arrive at a final decision. My impression is that, if we merely send it back to the Committee on Disarmament, we are going to bury the programme for many years.

For those reasons - and now that I have heard the statement of Ambassador Garcia Robles - I should like to ask the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31 to accept Brazil's amendment and have it adopted by consensus. Otherwise, Mr. Chairman, I should like the Committee to have an opportunity to take a decision on the subject.

Mr. SHARMA (India): I should like to make a statement on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31 also, followed by one on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62, both of which will now be voted upon by the Committee.

With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31, entitled "Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament", the delegation of India will vote in favour. However, in India's view, as the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi stated in her message to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982:

"... disarmament negotiations must once again revert to the task of achieving a treaty on general and complete disarmament within an agreed time-frame, as was discussed between the United States of America and the USSR in the agreed principles and draft treaties of the early 1960s - although the problems involved have become more complex, the basic approach and the principles then formulated could still provide a basis for meaningful negotiations ..." (A/S-12/PV.9, p. 92)

The continuing stalemate over the question of a comprehensive programme of disarmament makes it all the more necessary for multilateral negotiations on disarmament to revert to a treaty on general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62, entitled "Regional disarmament", India will abstain in the vote on it. In the crucial field of disarmament, there is a compelling need to maintain the focus on issues of the

(Mr. Sharma, India)

highest priority and of central importance: that is, the halting and reversing of the nuclear-arms race and the achievement of nuclear disarmament.

In this respect only a global approach with generally accepted principles, priorities and objectives can have a chance to succeed. Peace and security are indivisible in the age of nuclear weapons. There cannot be a piecemeal approach to disarmament in geographical terms, nor can a regional view in such a vital field be tenable.

Mr. DJOKIC (Yugoslavia): I wish to make a very brief statement on the Brazilian amendment (A/C.1/38/L.71) to draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31. I should like to say that, like the delegation of Mexico, my delegation also believes that at this stage of negotiations on the comprehensive programme of disarmament, it would be much better to concentrate the work on one, but not two, organs of the United Nations. However, since we received the amendment only this morning perhaps you might Mr. Chairman, be kind enough not to take action on both documents at this morning's meeting of the Committee. You might wish to give us some time to consider this new development and, if time allows, take up the matter this afternoon. I should be very grateful to you for that, Mr. Chairman, since, as I said, I have just received the amendment and have not had an opportunity to look at it carefully. Nevertheless, I wish to repeat once again that my delegation agrees with the substance of the statement just made by the Ambassador of Mexico. We believe that, for the benefit of the continuation of the negotiations on the comprehensive programme of disarmament, it would be better to concentrate the negotiations in one organ, that is, in the Committee on Disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: I see no problem in complying with the request just made by the representative of Yugoslavia to take up draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31, and the Brazilian amendment in A/C.1/38/L.71 this afternoon at the end of cluster 1, if that should be necessary. I hope the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.31 and the representative of Brazil will use the time to consult and, it is hoped, arrive at an agreement by the time we take a decision on the draft resolution. Accordingly, I promise the representative of Yugoslavia that we shall take up the matter this afternoon.

Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria): My delegation would like to make a brief comment on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.39, on the United Nations Programme of Fellowships

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

on Disarmament. We have been advised by the Secretariat, that since the issuance of this draft resolution, the Government of the United States of America did invite Fellows to visit Washington to study the selected aspects of arms limitation and disarmament. That visit has already taken place, and I would therefore ask the Secretariat to make a technical revision of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.39. For the information of delegations, what we are referring to is a simple addition in operative paragraph 3, as follows: after the words "the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics", we would insert "and the United States of America".

Secondly, we wish to inform the Committee that France has joined the sponsors of the draft resolution on the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, and we request that this be reflected as appropriate.

The CHAIRMAN: We have taken due note of the comments of the representative of Nigeria and the necessary addition will be reflected in the draft resolution.

There are a number of additional sponsors on various draft resolutions, and I now request the Secretary of the Committee to read them out.

Mr. RATHORE (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/38/L.2, Angola and Mongolia; L.5, Colombia, Samoa, France, Romania and the Yemen Arab Republic; L.8/Rev.1, Colombia; L.10, Romania and Mongolia; L.15, Colombia; L.17, Mongolia; L.19, Colombia and the Sudan; L.25, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; L.26/Rev.1, Colombia and Viet Nam; L.30, Colombia; L.33/Rev.1, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam; L.34, Mali; L.35, Colombia; L.36, Indonesia and Sweden; L.38, Austria and Colombia; L.39, Liberia, Mali and Colombia; L.40, Romania; L.41, Mongolia and Viet Nam; L.42, Colombia; L.43, Colombia; L.44, Colombia; L.46, the German Democratic Republic; L.48, Colombia and Mali; L.50, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Romania, Uruguay, Samoa and Thailand; L.51, Mali and Bahrain; A/C.1/38/L.52, Mali; L.53, Zaire; L.56, Sudan; L.58, Colombia, Viet Nam and Tunisia; L.59, Colombia, France and Romania; L.60, Indonesia and Colombia; L.61, Costa Rica and Portugal; L.62, Costa Rica, Sudan and Ireland; L.65/Rev.1, Czechoslovakia; L.66, Mongolia; L.67, Mali; and L.68, Mali.

Mr. STEPHANOU (Greece) (interpretation from French): I should like to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62, on regional disarmament.

(Mr. Stephanou, Greece)

While the problems relating to growing stockpiles of weapons should be seen in a global context, the regional approach may often be relevant with regard to the arms build-up. For that reason, the regional approach is among the various justified approaches to disarmament. In recent years the United Nations has studied prospects for regional disarmament. The countries of the European Community welcome the unanimous support of the General Assembly for the idea of a regional approach. Last year General Assembly resolution 37/100 F established machinery to encourage regional disarmament initiatives, particularly within the framework of regional institutional arrangements, and to create the basis for a system of mutual information as a result of these initiatives.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62, introduced by Belgium on behalf of a large number of countries, is aimed at the implementation of the machinery established by resolution 37/100 F.

Its aim is also to inform the General Assembly of a recent decision within the framework of the regional approach to disarmament resulting from a common agreement by the States of the region: the convening in Stockholm next January of a Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament, as a substantial and integral part of the multilateral process initiated by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The 35 countries that participated in the Madrid follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have agreed that the concluding document of that meeting should be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The countries of the European Community wish to express their satisfaction with the recent preparatory meeting in Helsinki, and, in the course of the Stockholm Conference, will try to ensure that, in the first stage, confidence- and security-building measures applicable to the whole of Europe which should be militarily significant, politically binding and verifiable will be adopted without delay.

Our countries hope that in coming years the General Assembly will be called upon to take note of decisions within the scope of the regional approach originating from our region and, it is our firm hope, also from other parts of the world. Such initiatives can come about only as a result of the will of the countries of the region concerned, taking into account their legitimate security interests under the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Stephanou, Greece)

Furthermore, the whole concept of the regional approach could easily be refined within regions. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research has an important role to play in this connection, together, of course, with the States of the region and the competent regional bodies. We wish to emphasize that the Department for Disarmament Affairs also has an important function in encouraging the regional approach.

The Ten, along with many other countries from all regions, fully support the draft resolution introduced by Belgium and hope that the General Assembly will adopt it unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their votes before the voting on all the draft resolutions listed in cluster 1.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation wishes to explain its votes on draft resolutions A/C.1/38/L.5 and A/C.1/38/L.21/Rev.1.

The Soviet delegation does not object to the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5, on confidence-building measures. Naturally, we also do not object to continuing the consideration of this question in the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

At the same time, however, we cannot fail to express our disquiet over the fact that in the recent past talks on the need for confidence-building measures have been increasingly used as a means of creating the illusion that that aim can be achieved at a time of an arms build-up as long as it is accompanied by measures having nothing to do with building confidence and in order to establish transparency, predictability, and so forth. In present-day conditions it is more important than ever before that confidence-building measures be established and implemented in connection with concrete measures for military détente, arms limitation and disarmament on specific situations and not in isolation from them.

In the view of the Soviet delegation, this provision, which unfortunately is not adequately reflected in the draft resolution notwithstanding our request to its sponsors in that regard, must be fully taken into account in the course of the future work of the Disarmament Commission.

The Soviet delegation does not object to the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.21/Rev.1. The Soviet delegation attaches great importance to the task of prohibiting or limiting the use of specific types of conventional

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and it welcomes the coming into force of the relevant international Convention. We fully support operative paragraph 1 in its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to ratify this Convention and its three Protocols.

At the same time I wish to emphasize yet again that the Soviet Union has proposed that further steps be taken to prohibit or limit the use of other types of weapons which may be considered to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects - for example, phosphorus munitions for use against human targets.

With the entry into force of the Convention now, there remain no further obstacles to the holding of talks on negotiations for the conclusion of new additional protocols to this Convention.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now begin the voting on the draft resolutions listed in cluster 1, beginning with draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1.

It was introduced by the representative of Denmark at the 21st meeting of the First Committee on 2 November and is sponsored by Denmark. The financial implications are contained in document A/C.1/38/L.69.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia

Against: None

Abstaining: Bahrain, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1 was adopted by 107 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5. It was introduced by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany at the 22nd meeting of the First Committee on 3 November and is co-sponsored by Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mauritania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Samoa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay and Zaire.

We shall now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5.

The sponsors of this draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.9. It was introduced by the representative of Norway at the 26th meeting of the First Committee on 7 November and is sponsored by the following countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.9 was adopted.

* Subsequently the delegations of Benin, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Guyana, Haiti, Malaysia, Niger, the Philippines, Upper Volta and Zimbabwe advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.14. It was introduced by the representative of Brazil at the 28th meeting of the First Committee on 9 November and is sponsored by the following countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

The sponsors of have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.14 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.17. It was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 31st meeting of the First Committee on 11 November and is sponsored by the following countries: Burundi, the Congo, Mali, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Spain and Sri Lanka.

The financial implications are contained in document A/C.1/38/L.70.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.17 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.21/Rev.1. It was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 33rd meeting of the First Committee on 17 November and is sponsored by the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.23/Rev.1. It was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 33rd meeting of the First Committee on 17 November and is sponsored by the following countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Japan and Sweden.

(The Chairman)

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objections, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.23/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: As agreed earlier, the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/38/L.31 and the Brazilian amendment in A/C.1/38/L.71 will be acted upon later.

Hence the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.39. It was introduced by the representative of Nigeria and is sponsored by the following countries: Algeria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, the Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

I remind the Committee of the addition to the draft resolution that was made by the delegation of Nigeria at the beginning of today's meeting.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.39 without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.39, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.58. It was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 33rd meeting of the First Committee on 17 November is sponsored by the following countries: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.58 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62. It was introduced by the representative of Belgium at the 32nd meeting of the First Committee on 15 November and is sponsored by the following

(The Chairman)

countries: Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zaire.

The sponsors have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.62 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: That completes action on the draft resolutions listed under cluster 1, except for A/C.1/38/L.31 and the Brazilian amendment to it in document A/C.1/38/L.71, which we shall take up at this afternoon's meeting.

I shall now call on delegations wishing to explain their votes after the voting.

Mr. FIELDS (United States of America): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1 because we are convinced of the need for a thorough investigation of disarmament questions in the field of conventional weapons. We view our endorsement of this draft resolution to be within the framework of our policy of containing the United Nations budget at its current level. Therefore, it is my delegation's considered opinion that this study should be funded within existing resources, and we reserve the right to pursue this position when the matter is considered in the Fifth Committee.

My delegation has joined in the consensus adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.17 on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference. Of particular interest to my delegation is the understanding reflected in the third preambular paragraph of this draft resolution that such a conference should be adequately prepared and convened at an appropriate time, and we note that a similar reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 1.

The United States believes that, to be successful, a world disarmament conference must take place in a propitious international environment. A premature

(Mr. Fields, United States)

conference would not, in the view of my Government, serve to enhance our efforts to achieve concrete and verifiable disarmament measures.

My delegation is pleased to have been able to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.23 on radiological weapons. Over the past year, the United States has had the honour of co-ordinating the work of the sub-group in the Committee on Disarmament devoted to concluding a treaty prohibiting radiological weapons. We are firmly committed to this goal and look forward to continued vigorous efforts during the coming year to complete this treaty. At the same time, the United States continues to be willing to discuss the question of whether additional legal protection is needed with respect to military attacks on nuclear facilities. The United States shares the concerns of many other countries about the potential effects of such attacks. In this context we note that certain protections already exist in the general provisions and specific rules provided for in the international law on armed conflict, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols.

As the discussions in the Committee on Disarmament have made clear, the question of attack on nuclear facilities is a very complex one and may well take longer to answer than should the completion of the negotiations on radiological weapons. For example, the discussions should continue the evaluation of the existing prohibitions and rules, gather additional expert opinion about the adequacy of the current legal protection and continue to bear in mind that there are aspects of the questions which concern rules of combat while others concern arms-control issues.

Accordingly, we believe that the conclusion of the negotiations on radiological weapons must not be held up because of these discussions which involve issues essentially independent of the traditional radiological weapons subject-matter. At the same time, the United States welcomes the continued efforts promptly to resolve the problems involved in these discussions, which should proceed deliberately to achieve consensus on the question of the need for additional legal measures affording protection to nuclear facilities. My delegation of course continues to have an open mind concerning the adequacy of current measures. We shall approach this and other questions relating to the conclusion of a treaty prohibiting radiological weapons with renewed vigour at the Conference on Disarmament next year.

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): My delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted in document A/C.1/38/L.4/Rev.1. It did so because the United Kingdom attaches importance both to the study and to its successful completion. My delegation notes with appreciation the considerable amount of work already carried out by the Group of Experts. At the same time, however, we wish to express our disappointment that, although the Group of Experts has already held an extra meeting in 1983 lasting two weeks, it was none the less unable to complete its work in time to submit a final report to this year's General Assembly, as originally envisaged.

As I have already said, my delegation regards this study as an important one. However, we would not wish an extension of the Group's mandate to create a precedent for the work of other United Nations expert groups. Indeed, the United Kingdom believes that these groups should be encouraged to complete their work within their allocated time and budget. We have noted the statement of administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.1/38/L.69 and consider that the additional resources and financial support which arise from the extension of the Group's mandate should be found from within the level of resources already proposed for the biennium 1984-1985. It was on this basis that my delegation was able to support the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. de la GORCE (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation joined the consensus that has just emerged on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.23, but like last year, in connection with the draft resolution we adopted on the same subject, we should like to express a reservation regarding the very title of the draft resolution "Prohibition of the development, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons". We note that the draft resolution deals with one of two subjects, one of which is not covered by agenda item 62 (f). We would have preferred the draft resolution to have dealt solely on item 62 (f), which corresponds to the mandate of the Working Group on this question in the Committee on Disarmament.

Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria): My delegation agreed to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5 because of its belief that confidence-building measures, in general terms, can provide a climate of trust in inter-State relations, while in the field of disarmament such measures lend themselves to productive negotiations leading to the adoption of concrete instruments and

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

agreements. However, had a separate vote been taken on operative paragraph 5, my delegation would have abstained on the grounds that a recommendation to States to include a reference to, or an agreement on, confidence-building measures in any joint statements or declarations of a political nature raises the status of concepts of confidence-building measures to an article of faith rather than a mere collateral measure of disarmament.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation agreed to the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5. None the less, it has certain doubts on the wording of operative paragraph 5. We find it extremely broad and believe that recommending all States to consider the possibility of including a reference to, or an agreement on, confidence-building measures in any joint statements of a political nature very probably goes beyond what the sponsors of the draft resolution had in mind.

However, we do not wish to stand out by being the only country to request a separate vote or to refrain from joining the consensus. However, we should like to draw the sponsors' attention to the fact that, if a similar draft resolution comes up next year, the drafting of that paragraph should be carefully pondered. If it should be the same as this year's, my delegation will be compelled to request a separate vote and to abstain in that vote.

Mr. CARASALES (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation took part in the consensus in support of draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5 on confidence-building measures. However, we have reservations with regard to operative paragraph 5, to which other delegations have already referred. We feel that this paragraph has been worded too broadly and gives confidence-building measures the kind of importance which, in my delegation's opinion, cannot be included in any joint statements of a political nature in the world. Confidence-building measures are certainly extremely important, but, in essence, they are nothing but collateral disarmament measures and should therefore not receive the kind of special treatment they have received in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

Mr. MOUSSAOUI (Algeria) (interpretation from French): My delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1.38/L.5, since we support the idea

(Mr. Moussaoui, Algeria)

of confidence-building measures. But we would have preferred simply to have a procedural draft before us, in the light of the work now going on in the Disarmament Commission. This document contains a certain number of elements my delegation would not have accepted. Furthermore, there are many other measures that are obviously conducive to building confidence between States which are not mentioned at all. Moreover, my delegation has reservations also with regard to operative paragraph 5.

Mr. KAPILLANI (Albania): My delegation joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.5. However, we wish to place on record that we have strong reservations about the last preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 5.

Mr. GAYAMA (Congo) (interpretation from French): My delegation would like to obtain the document listing the clusters of draft resolutions on which the Committee will be taking decisions, or at least, perhaps the Chairman could, to the extent possible, indicate in advance the draft resolutions on which we shall be voting, so that delegations which like mine do not have that document would be able to keep track of the programme of work.

The CHAIRMAN: The document was distributed to all delegations on Thursday, but, of course, the Secretariat will be happy to provide additional copies to those delegations which for one reason or the other do not have it. It is very important that delegations do have it, because it provides information as to how we shall proceed this week with the taking of decisions on the draft resolutions.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.