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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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A/C.1/32/L.3/Rev.1
15 November 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 51

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia,
Denmark, Finland, Japan, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Tunisia
and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the danger of nuclear warfare remains a grave threat to the survival of mankind,

Convinced that the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, especially in those areas of the world where the maintenance of international peace and security is endangered, remains a vital element in the efforts to avert nuclear warfare,

Recalling its resolution 31/189 D of 21 December 1976, in which the General Assembly requested the International Atomic Energy Agency to give special attention to its programme of work in the non-proliferation area and to give careful consideration to all relevant suggestions aiming at strengthening the safeguards régime that have been presented to the Agency (including the communication from the Government of Finland reproduced in document A/C.1/31/6) and to report on the progress of its work on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session,

Noting the annual report for 1976 of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/32/158),

Recalling also its resolution 31/75 of 10 December 1976 on the Implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the recommendations and proposals made at the Conference,

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Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which it commended the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Treaty,

Noting that more than 100 States are now parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting also the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a possible means of contributing to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons as recognized in its resolution 31/70 of 10 December 1976 on the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects;

Recognizing the need to ensure, in keeping with the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a supply of nuclear technology, materials and facilities to meet the world's energy needs,

Noting the deliberations of the Conference on the Transfer of Nuclear Technology at Persepolis in April 1977 and the International Conference on Nuclear Power and Its Fuel Cycle at Salzburg in May 1977 held under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which confirmed the important and growing contribution that nuclear energy will make to meeting the energy needs of all countries, including the developing countries,

Noting also that the organizing conference held in Washington in October 1977 to initiate an international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation recognized that nuclear energy should be made widely available for peaceful purposes, and that effective measures can and should be taken to minimize the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons without jeopardizing energy supplies or the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Anxious that the accelerated spread and development of nuclear technology should not increase the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Underlining again the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting the contribution of nuclear energy to economic progress, bearing in mind the special needs of developing countries, and in implementing safeguards in the interest of non-proliferation,

Noting that the International Atomic Energy Agency has made further progress in its safeguards activities by increasing its preparedness to reach with States which are not parties to NPT, if they so desire, safeguards agreements on the pattern of those concluded by the International Atomic Energy Agency with States parties to NPT, by keeping under scrutiny the strengthening of its safeguards, by completing this year a study on the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres and by presenting a draft convention for physical protection of nuclear materials,

Determined that similar progress could be made in exploring possibilities of increased assistance to the developing areas of the world,

1. Urgently calls for determined efforts by all nuclear-weapon States:

(a) To bring about the cessation of the nuclear arms race;

(b) To undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament;

(c) To find an early solution to the remaining problems in reaching agreement to discontinue all test explosions of nuclear weapons as a step towards the realization of these objectives;

2. Emphasizes in this connexion the particular responsibility of those nuclear-weapon States that have already accepted international obligations, i.e. in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests and notes with satisfaction the recent efforts under way towards these ends;

3. Underlines the importance of determined efforts especially by the nuclear-weapon States to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States and urges all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from the threat or the use of force in relations between States, involving either nuclear or non-nuclear weapons;

4. Reaffirms that States accepting effective non-proliferation restraints have a right to share fully the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and underlines the importance of increased effort in this field, particularly for the needs of the developing areas of the world;

5. Recognizes the importance of technical assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the developing areas of the world within an effective and comprehensive safeguards system, and emphasizes the urgent need of common efforts towards an essential increase of this assistance;

6. Urges States that as yet have not adhered to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the first instance, to do so at an early date or, at a minimum, accept other arrangements involving the application of safeguards to their complete nuclear fuel cycle, that would provide satisfactory assurances to the international community against the dangers of proliferation while guaranteeing to the States concerned unhindered and non-discriminatory access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy;

7. Emphasizes the importance of common efforts to study, in an appropriate way, mutually satisfactory arrangements for adequate supply of nuclear fuels and other materials and facilities necessary to efficient implementation and operation of national nuclear power programmes;

8. Solemnly affirms the principle that States should not convert civil nuclear materials or facilities to production of nuclear weapons;

9. Urges a universal acceptance in accordance with international agreements and treaties of a common system of comprehensive safeguards for all nuclear materials and facilities;

10. Emphasizes the responsibility of the major nuclear supplier States in implementing export policies with effective non-proliferation restraints including non-discriminatory complete nuclear fuel cycle safeguards;

11. Expresses its strong support for all efforts to increase the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards for ensuring that the peaceful application of nuclear energy will not lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

12. Recognizes the need to adequately ensure the physical protection of nuclear materials, facilities and transports;

13. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue the consideration of reaching an international agreement for such protection;

14. Expresses its support for the continuation of the studies by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the question of multinational fuel cycle centres and an international régime for plutonium management as possible means to promote the interests of the non-proliferation régime;

15. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to report on the progress of its work on these questions to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.
