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Agenda item 41

EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSES  
AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3470 (XXX) of 11 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, 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 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. In connexion with item 41, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 23 November, Austria, Ethiopia, Finland, India, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.14), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden and the United Republic of Cameroon. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 42nd meeting on 24 November.
6. At its 44th meeting, on 29 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.14 without a vote (see para. 7 below).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Effective measures to implement the purposes  
and objectives of the Disarmament Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it declared the decade of the 1970s the Disarmament Decade and envisaged a link between the Disarmament Decade and the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Deeply concerned that, despite the repeated requests by the General Assembly for the implementation of effective measures aimed at its cessation, the arms race, particularly of nuclear armaments, has continued to increase at an alarming speed, absorbing enormous material and human resources from the economic and social development of all countries and constituting a grave danger for world peace and security,

Considering that the ever-spiralling arms race is not compatible with the efforts aimed at promoting international peace and security as well as establishing a new international economic order, as defined in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it recognized that all States have a deep interest in disarmament negotiations,

Convinced that the participation of all nuclear-weapon States in the efforts to contain the nuclear arms race and to reduce and eliminate all armaments is indispensable for a full measure of success in these efforts,

Conscious that, disarmament being a matter of grave concern to all States, there is a pressing need for all Governments and peoples to be informed about and understand the situation prevailing in the field of the arms race and disarmament, and that the United Nations has a central role in this connexion in keeping with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the suggestion made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization that the General Assembly might discuss various ways in which public concern about disarmament could be stimulated and channelled in constructive ways, 2/

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 1A (A/31/1/Add.1), p. 11.

Having received the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 3/ particularly the section dealing with its mid-term review of the Disarmament Decade with a view to reappraising its tasks and duties in order to accelerate the pace of its efforts to negotiate truly effective disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

1. Reaffirms the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade;
2. Deplores the meagre achievements of the Disarmament Decade in terms of truly effective disarmament and arms limitation agreements, and the detrimental effects on world peace and economy of the continuing unproductive and wasteful arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race;
3. Calls again upon all States, as well as the organs concerned with disarmament issues, to place at the centre of their preoccupations the adoption of effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, for the reduction of military expenditures and to make sustained efforts with a view to achieving progress towards general and complete disarmament;
4. Calls upon Member States and the Secretary-General to intensify their efforts in support of the link between disarmament and development, envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) on the Disarmament Decade, so as to promote disarmament negotiations and to ensure that the human and material resources freed by disarmament are used to promote economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure a proper co-ordination of disarmament and development activities within the United Nations system of organizations and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to offer appropriate assistance and information to Member States that may require them in pursuance of the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade;
7. Urges the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to adopt, during its 1977 session, a comprehensive programme dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) proclaiming the Disarmament Decade;
8. Calls upon non-governmental organizations and international institutions and organizations to further the goals of the Disarmament Decade;
9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade".