



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/760
5 December 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 142

USE OF OUTER SPACE EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In a letter dated 27 September 1984 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/243), the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind" in the agenda of the thirty-ninth session.
2. At its 27th plenary meeting, on 9 October 1984, 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 15 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament item allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 65 and 142, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 36th meetings, from 17 October to 12 November (see A/C.1/39/PV.3-36).
4. In connection with item 142, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter referred to in paragraph 1 above (A/39/243);
 - (b) Letter dated 14 November 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/666).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/39/L.1

5. On 16 October, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind" (A/C.1/39/L.1). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, at the 3rd meeting, on 17 October, and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Expressing grave alarm over the threat of an extension of the arms race to outer space, which would lead to a sharp increase in the risk of nuclear war, impair the prospects for limiting and reducing armaments in general and erect insurmountable barriers to international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space,

"Deeply convinced of the need to prevent, before it is too late, the militarization of outer space, which should be used exclusively for peaceful and creative purposes,

"Noting that concerted efforts by States in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space would create new opportunities for studying the Earth's natural resources, controlling natural disasters, providing food to the population, improving transport and communications, developing promising materials and technologies and performing other economic, scientific, technological and cultural tasks,

"1. Proclaims it a historic responsibility of all States to ensure that the exploration of outer space is carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind;

"2. Declares that exclusion of outer space from the sphere of the arms race should become a mandatory norm of State policy and a generally recognized international obligation.

"and to this end calls upon all States, and above all those with major space capabilities:

"- to take urgent measures to prohibit for all times the use of force in outer space and from space against Earth as well as from Earth against objects in outer space and to ban and eliminate space attack systems, including space-based anti-satellite and anti-ballistic missiles systems as well as any land-, air- or sea-based systems designed to destroy objects in outer space;

"- to seek through negotiations the early elaboration of appropriate reliably verifiable agreements on a bilateral and multilateral basis;

"3. Indicates that guaranteed prevention of the militarization of outer space will provide an opportunity for its peaceful exploration and use in

solving acute major problems of economic, social and cultural development facing mankind today as well as in concerting the efforts of States of the world in this domain, including the eventual establishment of a world organization for the use of outer space for the benefit of mankind;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to seek the views and proposals of Member States about the provision of guarantees for the prevention of the militarization of outer space and the possible establishment, in these conditions, of an organization for its peaceful use, and to report to the fortieth session on the subject."

6. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.1.
