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Agenda item 52

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY:  
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Thailand, Vanuatu and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Convinced also of the consequent urgent need for an end to the nuclear-arms race and the immediate and verifiable reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Convinced further that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the recent progress made in the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America as reflected in their joint statement of 23 September 1989 1/ towards improved verification arrangements

1/ A/44/578-S/20868, annex.

and the ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests, 2/ signed on 3 July 1974, and their Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, 3/ signed on 28 May 1976, and urging both countries to complete this process,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of their Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles and the agreement in principle on and further progress made towards an agreement for 50 per cent reductions in their strategic nuclear forces,

Recalling the disarmament declaration adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September 1989, 4/

Recalling also the proposals by the leaders of the Six-Nation Initiative 5/ to promote an end to nuclear testing,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Reaffirming the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627), annex II.

3/ The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. I, 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.IX.2), appendix III.

4/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

5/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), and the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex).

Noting the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events in preparation for the next phase of the technical test, to take place in 1990, concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of fundamental importance;

2. Urges, therefore, that the following actions be taken in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be concluded at an early date:

(a) The Conference on Disarmament should intensify its consideration of item 1 of its agenda entitled "Nuclear test ban" and initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear-test-ban treaty at the beginning of its 1990 session;

(b) States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, and all other States should co-operate in order to facilitate and promote such work;

(c) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those that possess the most important nuclear arsenals, should agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to realizing a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(d) Those nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;

3. Also urges the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of an international seismic monitoring network with a view to the further development of its potential to monitor and verify compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) To take into account, in this context, the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including work on the routine exchange and use of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives or experiments by individual States and groups of States;

(c) To encourage the widest possible participation by States in the technical test that will take place in 1990 concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data;

(d) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

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4. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on progress made;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

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