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Agenda item 151

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR DISARMAMENT

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Dimitris PLATIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Education and information for disarmament" was included as a supplementary item in the agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with a letter dated 16 August 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/194).
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, 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 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 2 and 17 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26-41).
4. In connection with item 151, the First Committee had before it the letter from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica (A/44/194).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/44/L.17 AND Rev.1

5. On 30 October, Costa Rica submitted a draft resolution entitled "Education for general and complete disarmament" (A/C.1/44/L.17), which was introduced by its representative at the 31st meeting, on 8 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Firmly convinced that the United Nations was established for the purpose of laying the foundations of a new world order based on the general principles set out in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Fully aware that, as the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) says, 'a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of Governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind',

"Fully persuaded that, as the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also states, 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed',

"Taking into account the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly ^{1/} and, in particular, paragraph 106, by which Governments and governmental and non-governmental international organizations are urged to take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels,

"Also bearing in mind paragraph 107 of the aforesaid Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which urges the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 'to step up its programme aimed at the development of disarmament education as a distinct field of study through the preparation, inter alia, of teachers-guides, text books, readers and audio-visual materials. Member States should take all possible measures to encourage the incorporation of such material in the curricula of their educational institutes',

"Recalling that the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, in its paragraphs 99, 100 and 101, provides for measures to mobilize world public opinion on behalf of disarmament including the dissemination of supplementary information and publicity as part of its educational work,

"Considering that the World Disarmament Campaign plays an important supplementary role in the educational efforts on behalf of disarmament carried out by Governments within their own educational and cultural development systems, but that it cannot achieve irreversible results until training programmes are established at all levels of formal education for the purpose of changing basic attitudes with respect to aggression, violence, armaments and war,

^{1/} Resolution S-10/2.

"Taking into account the principles and considerations expressed, and the recommendations made, in the Report and Final Document of the World Congress on Disarmament Education, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris on 9-13 June 1980,

"1. Requests the States members and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Secretary-General concerning the efforts they have made to comply with the provisions of paragraph 106 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the reports of the States members and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to prepare an evaluation of the current state of world education for disarmament. That evaluation should be made with the help of a small group of experts in the composition of which preference should be given, to the extent that circumstances permit, to members of the Secretariat of the United Nations, the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations wishing to participate at their own expense;

"3. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the Disarmament Commission at its 1990 substantive session a report on what has been done to comply with the recommendations of the World Congress on Disarmament Education of 1980 and, in particular, to prepare and publish a Manual of Education for Disarmament prepared on the basis of those recommendations;

"4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to discuss fully all the problems of education and information for disarmament at its 1990 substantive session and to submit a report through its Rapporteur pinpointing areas on which, in the opinion of Member States, short- and long-term interest should be focused;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the World Disarmament Campaign submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a section devoted to evaluating what has been done to comply with paragraph 2 of this resolution and to submit a complete report on the evaluation requested in paragraph 2 to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"6. Decides to include an item entitled 'Education and information for disarmament' in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session."

6. On 8 November, the sponsor submitted a revised draft resolution entitled "Education for disarmament" (A/C.1/44/L.17/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire.

7. At its 34th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/44/L.17/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 130 to none, with 4 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, Germany, Federal Republic of, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

2/ Subsequently, the delegation of Romania indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Education for disarmament

The General Assembly,

Firmly convinced that the United Nations was established for the purpose of laying the foundations of a new world order based on the general principles set out in Article 2 of its Charter,

Fully aware that a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of Governments would not be a peace that could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind,

Fully persuaded that, since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed,

Taking into account the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly ^{3/} and, in particular, paragraph 106 thereof, in which Governments and governmental and non-governmental international organizations were urged to take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels,

Considering that paragraphs 99, 100 and 101 of the Final Document provide for mechanisms to mobilize world public opinion on behalf of disarmament, including the dissemination of supplementary information and publicity as part of its educational work,

Also considering that the World Disarmament Campaign plays an important supplementary role in the educational efforts on behalf of disarmament carried out by Governments within their own educational and cultural development systems, but that they cannot achieve irreversible results until training programmes are established at all levels of formal education for the purpose of changing basic attitudes with respect to aggression, violence, armaments and war,

1. Invites Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Secretary-General about the efforts that they have made to respond to the call made in paragraph 106 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, within available resources, to prepare a report on the current state of education for disarmament, taking into account the reports of Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and based on information available from other sources;

^{3/} Resolution S-10/2.

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit the reports requested in paragraphs 1 and 2 above to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Education and information for disarmament".
