



Seventieth session
Agenda item 99

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Tasha Young (Belize)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

“Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

“(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

“(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission”

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and 69/76 and 69/77 of 2 December 2014.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, 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 1st meeting, on 7 October 2015, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 88 to 105. On 8 and 9 and from 12 to 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items (see [A/C.1/70/PV.2-8](#)). On 9 October, the Committee had an exchange with the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and presentation of reports (see [A/C.1/70/PV.3](#)) and on 19 October it had an exchange with the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament (see [A/C.1/70/PV.9](#)). The Committee also held 12 meetings, from 19 to 23 and from



26 to 30 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts (see [A/C.1/70/PV.9-12](#) and 14-21). At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 22nd to 26th meetings, from 2 to 6 November (see [A/C.1/70/PV.22-26](#)).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/70/27](#));
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2015 ([A/70/42](#));
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters ([A/70/186](#));
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([A/70/177](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.14](#)

5. At the 19th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of New Zealand introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” ([A/C.1/70/L.14](#)).

6. At the 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.14](#) without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.29](#)

8. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission” ([A/C.1/70/L.29](#)).

9. At its 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.29](#) without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.30](#)

10. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution entitled “Thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research” ([A/C.1/70/L.30](#)). Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania,

San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At the 26th meeting, on 6 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.30](#) without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

13. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Report of the Conference on Disarmament**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,¹

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support and concern for the endeavours of the Conference and as calls for the Conference to immediately commence negotiations to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2015 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, including negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/76 of 2 December 2014, or in agreeing on and implementing a programme of work,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2015 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made at the 2015 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, including the informal discussions held pursuant to the decision contained in document [CD/2021](#), and noting the discussions on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/70/27).*

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes, and noting with concern its current difficult financial and institutional situation,

Recognizing the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2016 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2015 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock of almost two decades by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2016 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,² as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Co-Chair of the informal working group, re-established by the decision of the Conference on Disarmament with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation,³ including her report adopted by the Conference, contained in document CD/2033;

5. *Also welcomes* the fact that the Conference on Disarmament, pursuant to document CD/2021, held a series of structured and substantive informal discussions on items on the agenda of the Conference;

6. *Further welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

7. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2016 session;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2016 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

² Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

³ Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/70/27)*, para. 19.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

10. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on its work;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

Draft resolution II

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,¹

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013 and 69/77 of 2 December 2014,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,² Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;¹

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 16 years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its current triennial cycle;

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/70/42).*

² Resolution 44/119 C, annex.

³ Resolution S-10/2.

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³ and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;²

5. *Welcomes* the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, at its 347th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015,¹ on the understanding that consultations would continue on ways and means to implement resolution 69/77, and that the Commission decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2015 should serve for the period 2015-2017;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2016:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

7. *Notes* that the Disarmament Commission encourages the Chairs of its working groups to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to each of the groups;

8. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2016, namely from 4 to 22 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2015 session,⁴ together with all the official records of the seventieth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/70/27)*.

matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2016 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2016 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

Draft resolution III Thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, in which it approved the statute of the Institute,

Recalling also its resolutions 45/62 G of 4 December 1990, 55/35 A of 20 November 2000, 60/89 of 8 December 2005 and 65/87 of 8 December 2010 on the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Institute,

Considering the continuing need for the international community to have access to independent and in-depth research on security issues and prospects for disarmament and non-proliferation,

Underlining the particularly relevant contribution of the Institute to thinking and analysis on international security issues in the current context,

Recognizing the potential of the Institute, through its research, seminars, networks, outreach activities and publications, to assist ongoing negotiations on disarmament and efforts at ensuring greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments and to contribute to education in this regard,

Reiterating its preoccupation over the unsustainable financing situation of the institutional operations budget of the Institute,

Recognizing that a viable solution to the Institute's difficulties and its effective management will be instrumental for the Institute, as an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations, to take forward its mandate in fulfilling Member States' expectations and facilitating progress in disarmament efforts,

Noting the lack of implementation to date of the recommendations of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, and underlining the observations and recommendations of the Board contained in the latest report of the Secretary-General on its work,¹

Expressing its support for the Institute in its efforts to fully comply with Umoja and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards,

1. *Welcomes* the thirty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;
2. *Recognizes* the importance, the timeliness and the high quality of the work of the Institute;
3. *Reiterates its conviction* that the Institute should continue to conduct independent research on problems relating to disarmament and security and to undertake specialized research requiring a high degree of expertise;

¹ A/70/186.

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Institute as a stand-alone, autonomous institution that contributes, through its research, analysis and activities, to progress in disarmament and, ultimately, to a safer world;

5. *Underlines* the contribution that the Institute makes and should continue to make in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education in all regions of the world;

6. *Appeals* to all Member States to continue to make financial contributions to the Institute, and strongly encourages them to unearmark these contributions so as to contribute to its viability and the quality of its work over the long term;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of a revolving capital fund (the Stability Fund) in January 2015, and encourages Member States to contribute to this fund;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give the Institute administrative and other support;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, as an exceptional, one-off measure to preserve the future of the Institute and without setting a precedent, to submit, in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, a funding proposal taking into account additional resources in the light of the recommendations contained in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;¹

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to commission an assessment by an independent third party with a mandate to prepare a report on the future structural, financial, administrative and operational aspects of the Institute, outlining a sustainable and stable funding structure and operating model as required to achieve the mandate and objectives of the Institute beyond the biennium 2018-2019, and to report in this regard, taking into account the aforementioned assessment, to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.