



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/9361
4 December 1973
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 33

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de SOTO (Peru)

1. The following item was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 2932 A and B (XXVII) of 29 November 1972:

"General and complete disarmament:

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General".

2. Subsequently, in a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 14 September 1973 (A/BUR/180 and Corr.1 and 2), the item was proposed for inclusion in the agenda under the modified title:

"General and complete disarmament:

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;
- (b) Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use: report of the Secretary-General."

3. At its 207th meeting, on 20 September, the General Committee, on the proposal of Mexico, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that subitem (b) should be included in the agenda as a separate item.

4. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September, the General Assembly decided to include the item "General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" in the agenda as item 33, and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

5. At its 1923rd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean, namely:

- Item 29: Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security.
- Item 32: World Disarmament Conference.
- Item 33: General and complete disarmament.
- Item 34: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.
- Item 35: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.
- Item 36: Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.
- Item 37: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2935 (XXVII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).
- Item 38: Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

6. The general debate on these items took place at the 1934th, 1935th, 1938th and 1940th to 1953rd meetings, from 23 October to 8 November.

7. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with agenda item 33, the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (A/9141-DC/236);
- (b) Letter dated 23 January 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9039);
- (c) Letter dated 6 November from the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9293).

8. A draft resolution (A/C.1/L.650), subsequently revised by its sponsors (A/C.1/L.650/Rev.1 and 2), was submitted on 26 October under agenda items 33 and 34. The deliberations and action taken on this draft resolution will be found in the report of the First Committee on agenda item 34 (A/9362).

9. On 20 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.662), which was subsequently also sponsored by Egypt and Nepal. The draft resolution was introduced by Yugoslavia at the 1968th meeting, on 22 November.

/...

10. On 20 November, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.663), which was subsequently also sponsored by Nepal. The draft resolution was introduced by Mexico at the 1968th meeting.
11. On 21 November, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.665), which was subsequently also sponsored by Liberia, Nepal and Nigeria. The draft resolution was introduced by Sweden at the 1968th meeting. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.668).
12. At the 1968th meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/L.663 was adopted by 79 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions (see paragraph 15 below, draft resolution A).
13. At the 1969th meeting, on 23 November, draft resolution A/C.1/L.665 was adopted by 66 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 15 below, draft resolution B).
14. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/L.662 was adopted by 66 votes to none, with 23 abstentions (see paragraph 15 below, draft resolution C).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

General and complete disarmament

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2602 A (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, relating to the initiation of bilateral negotiations between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems,

Recalling further that the first phase of such negotiations resulted in the conclusion, on 26 May 1972, of three bilateral instruments on that matter, 1/

Reaffirming resolution 2932 B (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, whereby the General Assembly:

1/ See A/C.1/1026.

(a) Appealed to the above-mentioned Governments to make every effort to expedite the conclusion of further agreements including important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems,

(b) Invited the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed of the results of their negotiations,

Noting with satisfaction that those Governments have reached a new agreement entitled: "Basic Principles of Negotiations on the Further Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms",

Noting further that this agreement, signed on 21 June 1973, has been brought to the attention of the General Assembly by a letter dated 6 November 1973 from the representatives of both Governments to the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Appeals to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to bear constantly in mind in the current phase of the negotiations of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks the necessity and urgency of reaching agreement on important qualitative limitations and substantial reductions of their strategic nuclear-weapon systems as a positive step towards nuclear disarmament;

2. Again invites the two Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their negotiations.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which it commended the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Treaty,

Noting that article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty provides that:

"Five years after the entry into force of this Treaty, a conference of Parties to the Treaty shall be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in order to review the operation of this Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized",

Bearing in mind that the Treaty will have been in force for five years on 5 March 1975 and expecting that the review conference called for in the Treaty will take place soon after that date,

1. Notes that, following appropriate consultation, a preparatory committee has been formed of parties serving on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency or represented at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the review conference and its preparation.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it welcomed the joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on 20 September 1961, 3/

Further recalling its resolutions 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2661 C (XXV) of 7 December 1970 and 2825 B (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 on the comprehensive programme of disarmament,

Bearing in mind its specific responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the principles governing disarmament and to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, which is one of the most important issues confronting the world at present,

Emphasizing the vital interest of all peoples and countries of the world in disarmament negotiations,

Convinced of the importance and urgent need that all States should exert further efforts for the adoption of effective measures of disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction,

1. Reaffirms the responsibility of the United Nations with regard to all matters pertaining to disarmament, in particular the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

2. Invites the States parties to disarmament negotiations to ensure that the disarmament measures adopted in one region should not result in increasing armaments in other regions, thus upsetting their stability;

3. Invites the Governments of all States to keep the General Assembly suitably informed of their disarmament negotiations so as to allow the proper performance of its functions;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, as well as all other Governments and States, and to include in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly the item entitled "General and complete disarmament".