

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/9911
6 December 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 107

DECLARATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. António da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

1. The item entitled "Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia" was included in the draft agenda of the twenty-ninth session at the request of Pakistan (A/9706).
2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1987th meeting, on 25 September, the First Committee decided to have a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, namely:
 - Item 24: Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.
 - Item 27: Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use.
 - Item 28: Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.
 - Item 29: Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban.
 - Item 30: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 3079 (XXVIII) 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 31: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

- Item 34: World Disarmament Conference.
- Item 35: General and complete disarmament.
- Item 100: Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).
- Item 101: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- Item 103: Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.
- Item 107: Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.
4. The general debate on these items took place at the 1998th to 2016th meetings, from 21 October to 11 November.
5. On 14 November, India submitted draft resolution A/C.1/L.681 and Pakistan submitted draft resolution A/C.1/L.682. Both drafts were introduced at the 2020th meeting, on 15 November.
6. On 19 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/L.697) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/L.682.
7. At its 2024th meeting, on 20 November, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/L.681 by a recorded vote of 90 to none, with 32 abstentions (see para. 9 below, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Barbados, Burma, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Dahomey, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Gabon, Germany (Federal Republic of), Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

8. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.1/L.682 was adopted by a recorded vote of 84 to 2, with 36 abstentions (see para. 9 below, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen.

Against: Bhutan, India.

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, which established the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that the highest priority should be accorded to measures in the field of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 1652 (XVI) of 24 November 1961 entitled "Consideration of Africa as a denuclearized zone", 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 entitled "Denuclearization of Latin America", 2033 (XX) of 3 December 1965 entitled "Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa" and 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 entitled "Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America",

Recognizing that conditions and procedures for the creation of such zones differ from region to region,

Recognizing further that, in appropriate regions and by agreement among the States concerned, the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones could promote the cause of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Considers, therefore, that the initiative for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the appropriate region of Asia should come from the States of the region concerned, taking into account its special features and geographical extent.

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the right of States to harness nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and as an instrument of development and progress,

Realizing at the same time the dangers of diversion to military purposes inherent in the development of nuclear energy,

Recalling its resolution 2456 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 concerning the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons,

Expressing the conviction that the establishment of such zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures which can contribute most effectively to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament as a step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the ultimate goal of total destruction of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery,

Believing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones will strengthen the security of regional States against nuclear threat,

Recalling the Antarctica Treaty of 1959, the Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in 1964 and the Declaration adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations in 1971,

Bearing in mind that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone would, inter alia, entail:

/...

(a) Commitments by the States concerned to use exclusively for peaceful purposes nuclear materials and facilities under their jurisdiction and to prevent the testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition or storage of any nuclear weapons or nuclear launching devices,

(b) An equitable and non-discriminatory system of verification and inspection to ensure that nuclear programmes are in conformity with the foregoing commitments,

(c) Undertakings by nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten the use of nuclear weapons against the States of the region,

Having considered the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia without prejudice to the extension of the zone to include such other regions of Asia as may be practicable,

Desirous of preventing such a zone or any wider area as contemplated in the preceding paragraph from becoming involved in a ruinous nuclear arms race,

Considering that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America 1/ could serve as a model to be emulated with advantage by other regions,

1. Takes note of the affirmation by the States of the region not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples;

2. Endorses, in principle, the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

3. Invites the States of the South Asian region and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to initiate, without delay, necessary consultations with a view to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone and urges them, in the interim, to refrain from any action contrary to the achievement of these objectives;

4. Expresses the hope that all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, will lend their full co-operation for the effective realization of the aims of the present resolution;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the consultations envisaged in paragraph 3 above, to render such assistance as may be required for the purpose and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled "Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia".

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 91, document A/C.1/946.