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Agenda item 34

CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1980s  
AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled "Consideration of the declaration of the 1980s as a disarmament decade" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/62 of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 3rd meeting, on 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 30 to 45, 120 and 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 30th meetings, from 16 October to 5 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with agenda item 34, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 10 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979 (A/34/542).
5. On 12 November, Egypt, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.18), which was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 34th meeting, on 14 November. The draft resolution was subsequently revised (A/C.1/34/L.18/Rev.1) and sponsored by Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The revisions included the rewording of the sixth preambular paragraph and the addition of a new operative paragraph 4.

6. At its 37th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.18/Rev.1 by deleting the word "dates" after the word "target", and changing the word "target" to "targets".
7. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolution as follows:
- (a) Operative paragraph 3, on which a separate vote was taken at the request of the United States of America, was adopted by 120 votes to none, with 3 abstentions;
- (b) Draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.18/Rev.1 as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (see para. 8).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Consideration of the declaration of the 1980s  
as a disarmament decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/62 of 14 December 1978,

Bearing in mind that the Disarmament Decade, declared by its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, is coming to an end,

Expressing its disappointment that the purposes and objectives of the Decade have not been realized,

Deeply concerned that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, continues to be wasted on armaments with detrimental effect on international security and on efforts to achieve the new international economic order,

Bearing in mind the preparations for the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Stressing again the close relationship between disarmament and development,

Convinced that effective disarmament measures should release resources from the unproductive arms race for economic and social programmes, in particular for international economic co-operation,

1. Decides to declare the decade of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

2. Directs the Disarmament Commission, at its substantive session of 1980, to prepare elements of a draft resolution entitled 'Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade' and submit them to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session for consideration and adoption;

3. Determines that the draft resolution should embody, inter alia, an indication of targets during the Second Disarmament Decade for accomplishing the major objectives and goals of disarmament, as well as ways and means of mobilizing world public opinion in this regard;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and suggestions of Member States and of relevant specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on possible elements in the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance, including the preparation of a working paper, to the Disarmament Commission in implementing the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade".

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