



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/751
5 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 41

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE OF
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY
INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernst SUCHARIPA (Austria)

1. The item entitled 'United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: report of the Conference' was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/70 of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 22 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 the 30th meetings, from 16 October to 4 November (A/C.1/34/PV.4-30).
4. In connexion with item 41, the First Committee had before it the report of the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (A/CONF.95/8).
5. On 12 November, Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, India, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/34/L.19), which was subsequently also sponsored by Bangladesh, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Madagascar, Mauritius, Norway and Uruguay. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 34th meeting, on 14 November.

6. On 19 November, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Ireland, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/34/19/Rev.1), by which a new operative paragraph 4 was added, the remaining paragraphs being subsequently renumbered. The draft resolution was later also sponsored by Cyprus, France, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Somalia. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General on 20 November (A/C.1/34/L.41).

7. At the 36th meeting, on 21 November, draft resolution A/C.1/34/L.19/Rev.1 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:

United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of
Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively
Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/70 of 14 December 1978 in which it expressed its conviction that the suffering of civilian populations and of combatants could be significantly reduced if general agreement could be reached on the prohibition or restriction for humanitarian reasons of the use of specific conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

Reaffirming its belief that positive results as regards the non-use or restriction of use for humanitarian reasons of specific conventional weapons would serve, in addition, as encouragement in the broader field of disarmament,

Also recalling its resolutions 32/152 of 19 December 1977 and 33/70 of 14 December 1978 in which it decided to convene in 1979 a United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and established the mandate of the Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects on its session held at Geneva from 10 to 23 September 1979: 1/

1/ A/CONF.95/8.

2. Notes with appreciation that the Conference reached agreement with regard to a draft Protocol banning the use of non-detectable fragments;

3. Notes also that the report indicates a wide measure of agreement in respect of land-mines and booby traps, and that there was a further convergence of views in relation to the prohibition or restriction of use of incendiary weapons;

4. Takes note of the progress made by the Working Group of the Conference on the general treaty entrusted with the preparation of the text of a convention to which optional protocols or clauses embodying prohibitions or restrictions of use of certain conventional weapons, deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, would be attached;

5. Takes note of the resolution of the Conference concerning the development of small calibre weapons systems, which, inter alia, stressed the need to exercise the utmost care in their development so as to avoid an unnecessary escalation of the injurious effects of such systems;

6. Endorses the recommendations of the Conference to hold another session at Geneva for a period of up to four weeks, starting on 15 September 1980, with a view to completing negotiations in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 32/152 and 33/70;

7. Takes note of the understanding of the Conference that issues on which agreement had already been achieved should not be reopened at the forthcoming session, so that all efforts may be concentrated on working out agreement on outstanding issues;

8. Invites States to continue to participate actively in the Conference and to be represented, in so far as possible, by the required legal, military and medical expertise;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to provide necessary assistance to the Conference;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: report of the Conference".