

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY -FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No, 29 (A/44/29)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1989

NOTE

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ISSN 0255-1594

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its **resolution 43/79** of 7 December 1988, the General Assembly, after taking **note** of the report of the **Ad Hoc** Committee on the Indian Ocean, **1/** reaffirmed full support for the **achievement** of the **objectives** of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of **Peace**; reiterated and emphasised its decision to *convene* the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary **step** for ~~the~~ implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a **Zone of Peace** adopted in 1971; renewed the mandate of the **Ad Hoc** Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requested the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate) noted with satisfaction that in the implementation of the mandate of the **Ad Hoc** Committee, including the preparatory **work** for the *convening* of the Conference, as called for in the relevant **resolutions** recommended by the Committee and adopted by the Assembly by **consensus**, progress had been made by the Working Group of the **Ad Hoc** Committee in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 19881 urged the **Ad Hoc** Committee to intensify its discussions of substantive **issues** and principles, including those identified by the **Chairman** of **the Working Group** in his report dated 14 July 1988, with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference) requested the **Ad Hoc** Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1989, the first with a duration of one week and the **second** with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the **Conference at Colombo** in 1990 in **consultation** with the host country) noted that the **Ad Hoc** Committee would, during its preparatory sessions **in** 1989, continue to keep under review the need to organize its work more effectively in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate; decided that the **Ad Hoc** Committee should commemorate the tenth anniversary of **the** Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place in July 1379, during its preparatory sessions in 1989; requested the Chairman of the **Ad Hoc** Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the **work** of the Committee by **States** Members of the United Nations that were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving the matter at the earliest possible date also requested the Chairman of the **Ad Hoc** Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for **the Conference**; requested the **Ad Hoc** Committee to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session a full report on the implementation of the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary **assistance** to the **Ad Hoc** Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

2. Pursuant to resolution **43/79**, the **Ad Hoc** Committee held two sessions, a first session from 10 to 14 April (see **A/AC.159/SR.345-350**) and a second session from 5 to 19 July 1989 (**A/AC.159/SR.351-363**), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 19 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1989. In addition, the Working Group established by the **Ad Hoc** Committee in 1985 held a total of seven meetings in the course of the two sessions of the Committee in 1989.

3. The **Ad Hoc** Committee is composed of the following 49 Member States:

Australia	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
China	Pakistan
Demooratio Yemen	Panama
Djibouti	Poland
Egypt	Romania
Ethiopia	Seyahellee
France	Singapore
German Democratic! Republic	Somalia
Germany, Federal Republic of	Sri Lanka
Greece	Sudan
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Italy	United Kingdom of great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	United Republic of Tanaania
Kenya	United States of America
Liberia	Yemen
Madagascar	Yugoslavia
Malaysia	Zambia
Maldives	Zimbabwe
Mauritius	

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution **34/80 B** of 11 December 1979, Sweden continued to attend meetings of the **Ad Hoc** Committee as an observer.

4. The elected **officers** of the **Ad Hoc** Committee were the following;

Chairman: Mr. **Daya Perera** (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Jill Courtney (Australia)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (**German Democratic Republic**)
Mr. **Isslanet Poernomo** (Indonesia)
Mr. Manuel doe Santos (**Mozambique**)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotoaafy (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Auenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1989 (**A/AC.159/L.87**), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 345th meeting, on 10 April 1989:

1. Opening of the **session**.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organisation of work.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution **43/79**:
 - (a) Work on the substantive and organisational issues related to the Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraphs 6 to 12 of resolution **43/79**;
 - (b) Report of the Ad Hoc 'Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution **43/79**.
5. Other matters.

6. Furthermore, it was agreed that the following text concerning the organisational work adopted in earlier years would continue to apply in the course of the Ad Hoc Committee's work during 1989:

"It has been decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, in **recognition** of its preparatory functions, will meet in formal and informal sessions, as it considers appropriate, to complete the organisational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In doing so, adequate time will be given to both organisational and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.

"For the consideration of substantive issues, the Committee will take into account, inter alia, the political and security climate in the region and characteristics of the zone as given in documents placed before the Committee or discussed during the session. The Committee will also give consideration to all other documents before it.

"It has been decided further that the open-ended Working Group will continue to meet during the scheduled sessions of the Committee with a mandate to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive **issues** relating to the establishment **of** a zone of peace with a view to, inter alia, recommending to the Ad Hoc Committee elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. Meetings of the Committee and the open-ended Working Group will not take place concurrently."

B. Preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean

7. During six formal meetings, from 10 to 14 April (**345th-350th** meetings), the Committee undertook consideration of item 4 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work.

8. At its 345th meeting, on 10 April, the Committee considered the programme of work and decided to discuss the date of the Conference at an early stage of its consideration of organisational matters.

9. Following the 345th meeting, on 10 April, the open-ended Working Group established by the Committee in 1985 continued its work under **the** chairmanship of Mr. Edmond Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka) and continued to operate under the mandate given to it in 1985. The Working Group, in its four meetings as well as in various consultations, undertook consideration of 20 substantive issues and principles **relating** to the establishment of a **zone of** peace in the Indian Ocean as contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group dated 14 July 1988 (**A/AC.159/L.85**).

10. At the 350th meeting, on 14 April, the Chairman of the Working Group presented his report on the work of the Group containing 20 revised substantive issues and principles that reflected some of the views and observations expressed by its **members**, to the Ad Hoc Committee (**A/AC.159/L.88**).

11. Also at its 350th meeting, the Committee asked the Chairman to draw up a list of specific issues on organisational matters relating to the Conference on the basis of the views expressed by the members of the **Committee**. The list should form the basis for consultations that the Chairman would hold with various States members of the Committee,

12. During 13 formal meetings and one informal meeting, from **5** to 19 July (**351st-363rd** meetings), the Committee continued its consideration of item 4 of the agenda.

13. At the 351st meeting, on 5 July, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in his opening statement for the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced his informal paper on the organisational matters relating to the Conference (**A/AC.159/L.89** and **Corr.1**), in accordance with the Committee's decision taken at the 350th meeting.

14. Following the 351st meeting, on 5 July, the open-ended Working Group continued its work. In its five meetings as well as in informal consultations, it undertook the reading of the second version of the non-paper of the Chairman of the Working Group **of** the Ad Hoc Committee containing 20 substantive issues and principles relating to the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, annexed to the report of the Chairman of the Working Group dated 14 April 1989 (see **A/AC.159/L.88**).

15. At the 356th meeting, on 12 July, the Chairman of the Working Group, at the request of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, **presented** a further report on the work of the Group, **containing** 19 revised substantive issues and principles that **reflected some further** views and observations expressed by its members, to the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.159/L.93).

16. Between the 353rd and 356th meetings **and** in an informal meeting, from 7 to 12 July, the Committee had an exchange of views on organisational and procedural matters, including the provisional agenda for the Conference (A/AC.159/L.60), the rules of procedure (A/AC.159/L.61) and the structure of the Conference (A/AC.159/L.74).

17. At the 355th meeting, on 11 July, the representative of the **German Democratic Republic**, on behalf of a group of socialist States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a working paper entitled "Confidence-building measures in the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.91, annex).

18. At its 358th meeting, on 13 July, the Committee considered views expressed by its member States (A/AC.159/L.86 and Add.1-4). In this connection, ~~the~~ Committee also considered the views expressed by its member States contained in document A/AC.159/L.55 and Add.1-5.

19. At the 360th meeting, on 17 July, in accordance with the request made by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 347th meeting, the Chairman informed the Ad hoc Committee, following his consultations with the Government of Sri Lanka, that the latter was prepared to hold the Conference at Colombo from 2 to 13 July 1990.

C. Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean

20. At its 348th and 349th meetings, on 13 and 14 April, the Committee considered the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 43/79. At the 349th meeting, it was decided that the commemorative meeting would be held on 13 July 1989. The Committee also decided that statements would be made at the commemorative meeting by representatives of Western States **members of the** Ad Hoc Committee; socialist States **members of the** Ad Hoc Committee: China; and non-aligned States members and a State **member of the** Ad Hoc Committee.

21. At its 353rd meeting, on 7 July, the Committee adopted ~~the~~ provisional agenda of the commemorative meeting (A/AC.159/L.90/Rev.1).

22. At its 357th meeting, on 13 July, the Ad Hoc Committee held a special meeting for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. The meeting was attended by the **members of the** Ad Hoc Committee. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, which are not **members of the** Ad Hoc Committee but which had participated in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by representatives of non-governmental **organizations**. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee made an opening statement. A **message from** the Secretary-General was read out. Statements were made by the representatives of the members of the Ad Hoc

Committee referred to in paragraph 19 of the present report. Messages were received from **Mr. Haider Abubaker Al-Attas, Chairman** of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council of Democratic Yemen (A/AC.159/L.97) and from Mr. Jean Bemananjara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar (A/AC.159/L.96).

D. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee

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23. The draft report of *the* Committee (A/AC.159/L.92) was introduced by its Rapporteur, Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotoaafy (Madagascar), at the Committee's 359th meeting, on 14 July,

24. At its 359th and 363th meetings, on 14 and 17 July, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the draft report contained in document A/AC.159/L.92.

25. Also at the 360th meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.95), which the Ad Hoc Committee then considered.

26. At the 361st meeting, on 18 July, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members, of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.95/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

27. At the 363rd meeting, on 19 July, the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced the revised draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.159/L.92/Rev.1) which the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted as orally amended.

III. CONCLUSION

28. At the 361st and 362nd meetings and in informal consultations, on 18 and 19 July, the Ad Hoc Committee *considered* the revised draft resolution contained in document A/AC.159/L.95/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

29. It has been the practice of the Ad Hoc Committee to submit by consensus to the General Assembly a draft resolution on this subject for **its** consideration. As discussions *in* the Ad Hoc Committee were inconclusive, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its 363rd meeting, on 19 July, decided **that** the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee should continue **his** efforts *in this* regard and conduct informal consultations in the interim period in order to facilitate the adoption of a resolution at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. It was understood by the Ad Hoc Committee that this was without prejudice to the decision-making process of the General Assembly, which is governed by its own rules of procedure.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/43/29).

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