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Agenda item 40

EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSES AND
OBJECTIVES OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

1. The item entitled "Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/80 of 12 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, 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 6 October, the First Committee decided to consider separately items 125 and 128 and then to hold a combined general debate on the other items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 35 to 49. The general debate on those items took place at the 29th to 50th meetings, from 6 to 24 November (A/C.1/33/PV.29-50).
4. In connexion with item 40, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/
5. On 16 October, Ethiopia, India, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Sweden and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.23), which was subsequently also sponsored by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Ecuador, Egypt, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, the Niger, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nigeria at the 46th meeting, on 21 November.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/33/27).

6. On 22 November, Cyprus submitted the following amendments (A/C.1/33/L.37) to draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.23:

"Insert after preambular paragraph 6 the following as paragraph 7:

"Recalling further its decision that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of consultant experts appointed by him, continue the study of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security,

"Add the following in continuation of the operative paragraph 2:

"... and further that the final report of the Group of Experts on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security will be submitted to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and a progress report to the thirty-fourth session;"

The amendments were not pressed to a vote.

7. At its 54th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.23 by consensus (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Effective measures to implement the purposes and objectives of the Disarmament Decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it declared the decade of the 1970s the Disarmament Decade,

Reaffirming the purposes and objectives of the Decade,

Recalling its assessment in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 2/ that the objectives established for the Decade appeared to be as far away as they were or even further because the arms race was not diminishing but increasing and outstripping efforts to curb it,

Deeply concerned at the continued wastage of resources on armaments and the consequent detrimental effect on international security and the achievement of the new international economic order,

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

Recalling the decision taken at its tenth special session concerning a comprehensive programme of disarmament, 3/

Recalling also its decision that the Secretary-General should, with the assistance of the group of qualified governmental experts, initiate an expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development in view of the relationship between expenditure on armaments and economic and social development and the need to release real resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development in the world, particularly of the developing countries, 4/

Affirming the urgent need for the promotion of negotiations on effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, for the reduction of military expenditures and for general and complete disarmament,

1. Calls upon the Disarmament Commission to give priority consideration to the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament in its session to be held in 1979 and to exert its best endeavours to transmit its recommendations thereon, through the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, to the Committee on Disarmament;

2. Expresses its satisfaction that the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development has been convened by the Secretary-General to commence its study and looks forward to receiving an interim report on the study at its thirty-fourth session;

3. Takes note of the preparations for the strategy for the third United Nations development decade and stresses the need to continue to promote the link between the strategy for disarmament and the strategy for development in view of the close relationship affirmed by the General Assembly at its special session between disarmament and development;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session an item entitled "Consideration of the declaration of the 1980s as a disarmament decade".

3/ Ibid., sect. III.

4/ Resolution 32/38 A, para. 2.