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Agenda item 49

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. Miodrag MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

1. The item "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 Preparatory Conference" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/152 of 19 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 these 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 49, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Preparatory Conference; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session,  
Supplement No. 44 (A/33/44).

(b) Letter dated 6 September 1978 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade from 25 to 30 July 1978 (A/33/206).

5. On 17 November, Austria, Denmark, Egypt, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/33/L.26) which was subsequently sponsored also by Bangladesh, Cyprus, Honduras, Mauritius, Pakistan, Peru and Uruguay. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 57th meeting on 30 November.

6. On 29 November, the Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.1/33/L.53) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At its 57th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/33/L.26 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:

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,

Convinced that the suffering of civilian populations and combatants could be significantly reduced if general agreement can be attained 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,

Mindful 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,

Recalling its resolution 32/152 of 19 December 1977, 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,

Reiterating the task established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session that the Conference should consider specific categories of such weapons,

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including those which were the subject-matter of previously conducted discussions, as well as the appeal addressed by the Assembly at its special session to all States to contribute towards carrying out this task, 2/

Recalling its decision to convene a Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference with the task of establishing the best possible substantive basis for the achievement at the United Nations Conference of agreements on prohibitions or restrictions of use of certain conventional weapons and of considering organizational matters relating to the holding of the United Nations Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Preparatory Conference for 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 3/ on its first session and the progress made with regard to organizational aspects;
2. Notes that a number of proposals on the substantive work of the United Nations Conference were introduced and views exchanged on them;
3. Reaffirms its belief that the United Nations Conference should strive to reach agreement on specific instruments in the field of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects;
4. Endorses the decision of the Preparatory Conference to hold another session from 19 March to 12 April 1979 with a view to continuing its preparatory work in respect of both the organizational and of substantive aspects of the United Nations Conference;
5. Reaffirms its decision that the United Nations Conference should be held in 1979 and endorses the recommendation of the Preparatory Conference that it should be held at Geneva from 10 to 28 September 1979;
6. Invites States to participate actively in the further work of the Preparatory Conference and in the United Nations Conference itself and to be represented, in so far as possible, by the required legal, military and medical expertise;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide continued assistance to the Preparatory Conference in its work and to undertake the necessary preparations for the holding of the United Nations Conference;

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2/ See resolution A/S-10/2, paras. 86 and 87.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/33/44).

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session an 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".

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