

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE LITTORAL  
AND HINTERLAND STATES  
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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**NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly adopted, under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", resolution 33/68 of 14 December 1978, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Urges that the talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean be resumed without delay;

"2. Renews its invitation to the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean that have not so far seen their way to co-operating effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to enter with the least possible delay into consultations with the Committee regarding the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

"3. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee 1/ and in particular section III concerning the steps taken towards making the necessary preparations for holding a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean;

"4. Decides to convene a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), such States being listed in the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth, 2/ thirtieth, 3/ and thirty-third 4/ sessions, and decides that other States not falling within this category, but which have participated or have expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee, could attend upon the invitation of the Committee;

"5. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee, performing the functions of a preparatory committee, will make the necessary preparations for convening the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and that the Committee will set up informal working groups for this purpose when necessary;

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9029), annex I, para. 5.

3/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/10029), para. 29.

4/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/33/29/60).

"6. Requests the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to submit its report to the General Assembly at the thirty-fourth session;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provision for the Meeting, including the essential background information, relevant documentation and summary records, and to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

"8. Renews the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

"9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a full report on its work."

## II. PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE MEETING

2. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which by paragraph 5 of the above resolution was entrusted with the task of performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, elected a Bureau composed of the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Biyagama Jayasena Fernando (Sri Lanka);  
Vice-Chairman: 5/ Mr. Wisber Loeis (Indonesia);  
Rapporteur: Mr. Jacques Solo Rason (Madagascar) and his successor,  
Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar).

3. Mr. Sohrab Kheradi of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament served as the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee met at United Nations Headquarters in three preparatory sessions from 12 to 16 February, 12 to 16 March and 14 to 23 May 1979, holding 15 formal and 18 informal meetings during the period. In addition, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to establish two working groups which met intersessionally.

5. During the formal and informal meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee discussed all the relevant aspects of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, including the purpose of the Meeting, the provisional agenda, the rules of procedure, the question of participation, the Final Document and other issues which were considered relevant. The proceedings of the plenary meetings, including the views expressed by delegations, are contained in the summary records of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.159/SR.60-74).

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5/ A decision concerning an additional vice-chairman is still pending, subject to a communication from the African group regarding a candidate for the post, pursuant to the Committee's decision of 25 September 1978.

6. At its 63rd meeting, on 15 February 1979, the Committee decided to set up a Working Group, consisting of the officers of the Committee and the Committee Secretary, and entrusted it with the task of preparing the draft of a provisional agenda for the Meeting, to be submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee for consideration at its preparatory session in March. The Working Group held several meetings under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and agreed upon a provisional agenda for the Meeting (A/AC.159/L.16), which the Committee at its 64th meeting decided to recommend as amended (A/AC.159/L.16/Rev.1) for adoption by the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean (see A/AC.199/2).

7. The Ad Hoc Committee considered the rules of procedure, including the decision-making process, for the Meeting. During the course of several formal and informal meetings in which a representative of the Office of Legal Affairs took part the Committee prepared a set of provisional rules of procedure (A/AC.159/L.18 and Corr.1) which it decided to recommend for adoption by the Meeting (see A/AC.199/3).

8. At its 65th meeting, on 12 March, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to establish a second Working Group consisting of the officers of the Committee and the Committee Secretary, but open to all members of the Ad Hoc Committee, to prepare a draft Final Document of the Meeting for consideration at the Committee's preparatory session in May. Accordingly, the Working Group held eight meetings between 3 April and 1 May under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and drew up the draft Final Document of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/L.19) which was introduced by the Chairman at the Committee's 71st meeting, on 14 May. After extensive deliberation during the course of several formal and informal meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to submit to the Meeting, for its consideration, the draft resolution embodying a draft Final Document (A/AC.159/L.20/Rev.1), as amended by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 74th meeting, on 23 May (see A/AC.199/4).

9. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee decided that the Bureau would continue to function until the convening of the Meeting for purposes of co-ordination and liaison.

10. As a result of discussions and consultations during the course of the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Bureau decided to call an informal meeting of the Group of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which was held on 28 June. At that meeting, the Group discussed various organizational matters related to the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

11. The Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held its session between 2 and 13 July 1979 at United Nations Headquarters.

#### A. Participants

12. In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 33/68 and the decision of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Indian Ocean, performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, representatives of the following States participated in the Meeting:

(a) Forty-four littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 33/68: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia;

(b) China, Greece and Japan, which are not littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean but which are members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, as well as Panama, which participated in observer capacity in the Committee;

(c) The great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean with which the Ad Hoc Committee had previously held consultations: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. With respect to the scope of their participation at the Meeting, these 11 States were invited to participate at the inaugural session of the Meeting, and to participate as observers in all formal meetings of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean.

13. In addition, at its first meeting, on 2 July, the Meeting decided to invite the following States to participate as observers and to address its inaugural session: Finland, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. A list of all delegations to the Meeting is contained in document A/AC.199/INF.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3.

14. At the opening session of the Meeting, a message from Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim was read out by Mr. Rolf Björnerstedt, Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament.

#### B. Officers

15. The Meeting elected the following officers:

President: Mr. Biyagama Jayasena Fernando (Sri Lanka);

Vice-Presidents: The representatives of Australia, Indonesia, Iraq, Mozambique, Swaziland;

Rapporteur: Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar).

16. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, as the Secretary of the Meeting.

#### IV. WORK OF THE MEETING

17. The Meeting held 10 plenary meetings. In addition, the Meeting decided to establish a working group which held nine meetings.

18. At the beginning of the 1st plenary meeting, on 2 July, the President made an opening statement, which is reproduced in extenso in the records of the Meeting (A/AC.199/SR.1).

A. Adoption of the agenda

19. The Meeting had before it an annotated version of the provisional agenda (A/AC.199/2) prepared by the Secretariat with a view to assisting the Meeting in its work. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Meeting adopted the agenda recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean as contained in that document.

B. Adoption of the rules of procedure

20. At the same meeting, the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States adopted the provisional rules of procedure recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean as contained in document A/AC.199/3.

C. Credentials

21. In accordance with rule 3, subparagraph 3, of the rules of procedure, if any question were raised concerning the credentials of a representative, it would be referred to the General Committee, which would examine the credentials that had been challenged and report thereon to the Meeting.

22. No question was raised during the course of the Meeting concerning the credentials of any representative.

D. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

23. The Meeting had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.199/1), performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting, transmitting to the Meeting its decisions and recommendations and a list of relevant documentation.

24. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Meeting took note of that report.

E. Statements by the permanent members of the Security Council participating as observers and by major maritime users of the Indian Ocean as well as other observers

25. The permanent members of the Security Council participating as observers and several of the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean who had been invited to participate in the inaugural session of the Meeting made statements during the inaugural part of the Meeting.

26. According to a decision taken by the Meeting, the statements made by the representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council participating as observers are reproduced in extenso in the records (A/AC.199/SR.2, 3, 7 and 10).

F. General debate: (i) Review and assessment of developments since adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; and (ii) Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

27. At its inaugural meeting, the Meeting decided to hold a combined general debate under agenda item 6: "Review and assessment of developments since adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI)" and agenda item 7: "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", without prejudicing the right of delegations to address themselves separately to item 7 at a subsequent stage. During the course of that debate, most of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean made general statements under the two items. The proceedings of the general debate are contained in the summary records of the Meeting (A/AC.199/SR.2-6).

G. Adoption of the Final Document

28. At its 1st meeting, on 2 July, the Meeting decided to establish a working group consisting of the officers of the Meeting but open to all participants in the Meeting, to prepare a draft Final Document. Accordingly, the Working Group held nine meetings between 5 and 11 July under the chairmanship of Mr. Wisber Loeis (Indonesia) and drew up the draft Final Document of the Meeting (A/AC.199/L.1) which was introduced by its Chairman at the 7th plenary meeting, on 12 July.

29. At its 10th meeting, on 13 July 1979, the Meeting adopted without a vote the Final Document as contained in the present document. 6/ Regarding the adoption of the Document, some States submitted the following:

Australia

Australia was unable to accept the document. The reasons for the inacceptability of this document are as follows:

Australia, as an island continent bounded by three oceans and four seas, is unable to accept, in the context of the Indian Ocean, undertakings and obligations which would bind it in other regions. In the same context, it cannot consider entering into any arrangements which would preclude it from entering into other arrangements with Powers outside the Indian Ocean region. One must look to the security of the whole of the territory, not only the Indian Ocean littoral. Australian territory is not divisible. The Australian delegation cannot therefore accept the present formulation in principle 1.

As regards principle 2, the Australian delegation is unable to subscribe to calls upon the great Powers to assume obligations unless it is made clear, beyond doubt, that the actions in respect of which those obligations are to be assumed are related to the context of great Power rivalry or are in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations. It cannot therefore accept the deletions from subparagraphs (a) and (c) of the words: "conceived in the context of great Power rivalry" and from subparagraphs (c) of the words: "and in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations".

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6/ For the text of the Final Document, see sect. V of this report.

In addition, this principle, and the document as a whole, carried the implication that the present level of great Power military rivalry in the Indian Ocean is the only threat to the maintenance of peace and security in the region. Australia has argued that this is neither an accurate nor realistic claim. The Australian delegation believes that a major responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security of the region lies with the countries in the region itself and have sought reference in the Document for the recognition of this responsibility.

#### Greece

The representative of Greece pointed out that the language of the document reflects to a great extent the desire of delegations to look upon the future work in a spirit of realism and a result-oriented manner. This language should be interpreted within the context of the Declaration contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI) and in accordance with the spirit of the last paragraph of document A/AC.199/L.1.

The ultimate success depends on the follow-up of the present work by an expanded body, in which the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean will participate. Consequently, the delegation of Greece believes that decisions on crucial points should not be finalized without the concurrence of such States.

This remark applies especially to paragraph 14 of the document, which leaves the final delimitation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace to a later stage, as well as to paragraphs 15 and 19.

#### Japan

The delegation of Japan has actively participated in the work of this Meeting in a spirit of mutual understanding, co-operation, and a great deal of compromise, in order to accomplish fruitful results on a realistic and balanced basis.

However, it is a source of deep regret to the delegation of Japan to have to express serious reservations on some of the substantive part of the Final Document, especially paragraphs 14, 15 and 19. The delegation of Japan is prepared to submit its versions as substitutes for the paragraphs 14, 15 and 19 in a spirit of co-operation and compromise. The delegation of Japan refrains from explaining in detail the reasons for its reservations because they are self-evident from the opening statement of Japan on 3 July, and the views expressed by the delegation of Japan in the course of drafting the Final Document and from the following substitute versions of paragraphs 14, 15 and 19 of the Final Document:

"14. In the context of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace would cover the Indian Ocean itself, its natural extensions, the ocean floor subjacent thereto, and the air space above. The final limits of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace have yet to be agreed upon.

"15. The great Power military activities, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, are inconsistent with stability and security in the Indian Ocean, and, therefore, the great Powers are called upon to:

(a) Halt forthwith the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and, in this context, undertake not to further strengthen their existing military bases nor to acquire new military bases conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.

(b) Refrain from conducting military manoeuvres, exploding nuclear devices and the deployment of military forces for the purposes of threatening or using force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(c) Enter into consultation, as appropriate, with the littoral and hinterland States with a view to formulating an agreed programme for the elimination of their military bases, military installations and other logistical supply facilities, the deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and every manifestation of their military presence conceived in the context of great Power rivalry and in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations.

"19. The establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean presupposes the recognition of the primary role, if not the exclusive role, of the countries of the region in the maintenance of peace and security in the Indian Ocean.

The concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would be strengthened and maintained by a system of universal collective security without military alliances and without the use of force in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and without interference with the existing regional arrangement. The Littoral and Hinterland States should also undertake among themselves negotiations with a view to promoting or enhancing stability of the Indian Ocean area at a lower military level, based on the principle of undiminished security of the States concerned and taking into account the need of all States to safeguard their security.

The nuclear-weapon States, to contribute to this climate of security, are called upon to work towards individual or joint arrangement, in conformity of the Charter of the United Nations, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean which have given binding commitments not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons, particularly through adhering to the Non-Proliferation Treaty."

## China

The Chinese delegation maintains that the "great Power rivalry" referred to in the Final Document precisely means the "super-Power rivalry".

### H. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

30. In paragraph 6 of resolution 33/68, the General Assembly requested the Meeting to submit its report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

31. At the 10th meeting, on 13 July 1979, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Meeting to be submitted to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

32. At the same meeting, the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean adopted its report without a vote for submission to the General Assembly.

V. FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE LITTORAL AND  
HINTERLAND STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

33. The text of the Final Document is as follows:

The Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean

Conscious of the determination of the peoples of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to resolve their political, economic and social problems under conditions of peace and tranquillity,

Concerned at recent indications of further escalation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean area and the intensification of great Power rivalry which pose a serious threat to the security of the littoral and hinterland States,

Convinced that the extension of the arms race, inter alia, into the Indian Ocean area, particularly in its nuclear aspect, runs counter to efforts to achieve further relaxation of international tension, to establish international relations based on peaceful coexistence and trust between all States, and to develop broad international co-operation and understanding; that the arms race impedes the realization of the purposes and is incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially respect for sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States; and that it also adversely affects the rights of peoples freely to determine their systems of social and economic development and to dispose of their own natural wealth and resources and hinders the struggle for self-determination and the elimination of colonial rule, racial or foreign domination or occupation,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would contribute towards arresting this development, relaxing international tensions and strengthening international peace and security;

Recalling resolution 2832 (XXVI) adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1971, paragraphs 1 to 3 of which read as follows:

"1. Solemnly declares that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, is hereby designated for all time as a zone of peace;

"2. Calls upon the great Powers in conformity with this Declaration, to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to:

"(a) Halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean;

"(b) Eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

"3. Calls upon the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, in pursuit of the objective of establishing a system of universal collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation, to enter into consultations with a view to the implementation of this Declaration and such action as may be necessary to ensure that:

"(a) Warships and military aircraft may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

"(b) Subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all nations is unaffected;

"(c) Appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace."

Further recalling resolution 2992 (XXVII) by which the General Assembly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to study the implications of the proposal, with special reference to the practical measures that may be taken in furtherance of the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), having due regard to the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Also recalling resolution 33/68 by which the General Assembly decided to convene a Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, as contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI),

Adopts the following Final Document of this Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean:

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lusaka from 8 to 10 September 1970, in a resolution on the United Nations, called upon the General Assembly to adopt a declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace from which great Power rivalries and competition, bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition, as well as nuclear weapons should be excluded.

2. The following year, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971.

3. In 1972, by its resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean with the mandate to study the implications of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

4. Subsequently, at its twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, the General Assembly adopted relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to undertake consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean.

5. The General Assembly, at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, noted the proposal for establishing the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace taking into account its deliberations and its relevant resolutions, as well as the need to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

6. At its thirty-second session, by its resolution 32/86 of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly decided that, as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean, a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean be convened in New York, and at its thirty-third session, by its resolution 33/68 of 14 December 1978, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979, which other States not falling within this category, but which had participated or had expressed their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee, could attend upon the invitation of the Committee.

## II. REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

7. Since the adoption of its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, the General Assembly has repeatedly expressed its deep concern at developments that portend the extension of the arms race into the Indian Ocean, and at the competitive escalation of the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, thereby increasing tension in the area and posing a serious threat to the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

8. The non-aligned countries which, through the Declaration of the Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lusaka from 8 to 10 September 1970, first called upon all States to consider and respect the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, have since then consistently extended their unanimous support to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, through other meetings of Foreign Ministers and summit conferences of their heads of State or Government.

9. Similarly, the Organization of African Unity and the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers have repeatedly called for and consistently reiterated the commitment of their member States to the objective of the early establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean free of military bases and nuclear weapons.

10. The General Assembly has, since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, been inviting the great Powers and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to extend their practical co-operation in implementing the Declaration. So far, some of the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean have not been able to co-operate effectively with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

11. The General Assembly has noted that talks were initiated between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean, and that the two countries have kept the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean informed of the current situation concerning their talks. These bilateral talks, it is noted, were limited in scope and were not primarily designed to and did not fully meet the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. In this regard, the General Assembly has expressed its regret over the suspension of these bilateral talks. It was encouraging to note that recently the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have agreed to meet promptly to discuss the resumption of these talks and the Meeting expressed the hope that these talks would fully meet the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

12. The General Assembly has also considered that the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States to ensure conditions of peace and security within the region as envisaged in the Declaration and to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these States.

13. The Meeting notes that, despite the expressed wishes of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and that of the General Assembly, the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry has intensified and that there has been a deterioration of peace and security in the Indian Ocean area. The escalation of the great Power military presence, as well as other military preparations, continues to threaten the peace and stability of the area, hinders the struggle of the liberation movements to eliminate colonialism, racism, apartheid and foreign domination from the area and seriously threatens the inalienable right of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to dispose freely of their natural wealth and resources. This situation gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

### III. PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

#### 1. Limits of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

14. In the context of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace should cover the Indian Ocean itself, its natural extensions, the islands thereon, the ocean floor subjacent thereto, the littoral and hinterland States and the air space above.

15. The final limits of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace have yet to be agreed upon.

2. Halting the further escalation and expansion and eliminating the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry

16. The great Power military activity, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, is a threat to stability and security in the Indian Ocean and, therefore, the great Powers are called upon to:

(a) Halt forthwith the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and, in this context, undertake not to strengthen further their existing military bases nor to acquire new military bases;

(b) Desist from conducting military manoeuvres, exploding nuclear devices and the deployment of military forces for the purposes of threatening or using force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Enter into immediate consultations with the littoral and hinterland States with a view to formulating an agreed programme for the elimination of their military bases, military installations and other logistical supply facilities, the deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and every manifestation of their military presence.

3. Elimination of military bases and other military installations of the great Powers from the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry

17. Recognizing the determination of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to preserve and protect their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, all littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean are called upon to:

(a) Take action to ensure that warships and military aircrafts as well as other military forces may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral and hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Undertake, in this context, not to assist the great Powers in their military activities in contravention of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

4. Denuclearization of the Indian Ocean in the context of the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

18. (a) The nuclear-weapon States are called upon to undertake not to establish nuclear bases in the Indian Ocean and to refrain from conducting nuclear test activities in the Indian Ocean;

(b) Similarly, the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean should agree not to acquire or introduce nuclear weapons in the Indian Ocean themselves or to allow their introduction by an external Power. 7/

(c) The littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean uphold the fundamental objective of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons by all States and reaffirm their conviction that production, acquisition and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are detrimental to the maintenance of peace and security of the world and call upon nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete measures of nuclear disarmament leading to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. Non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes

19. The creation of the Indian Ocean peace zone requires, inter alia, the following:

(a) The renunciation by the States of the Indian Ocean area of the threat or use of force against any other State of that area and the affirmation of their resolve to settle their disputes with one another by peaceful means and without resort to force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions or bilateral agreements or other decisions taken among themselves by the States of the area;

(b) Reiteration of the commitment by the States of the area to conduct their relations on the basis of the principles, purposes and provisions of the Charter, especially those concerning sovereign equality, respect for the territorial integrity and political independence and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

(c) The reaffirmation of the right of self-defence in accordance with the Charter.

6. Strengthening of international security through regional and other co-operation in the context of the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

20. The concept of the zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would be strengthened and maintained by a system of universal collective security without military alliances and without the use of force except in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and without interference with the existing regional arrangements. The littoral and hinterland States should also undertake to consider negotiating measures for promoting or enhancing the stability of the Indian Ocean area at a lower military level based on the principle of undiminished security of the States concerned and taking into account the need of all States to safeguard their security.

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7/ Some delegations voiced objections against this subparagraph and the Meeting recommended that further negotiations on it should take place in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

The nuclear-weapon States, in order to contribute to this climate of security, should undertake effective arrangements to assure the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

7. Free and unimpeded use of the Indian Ocean zone of peace by the vessels of all nations in accordance with the norms and principles of international law and custom

21. The Meeting reaffirms the right of all States to use the Indian Ocean for navigation and other peaceful uses, freely and without hindrance, in conformity with international law and custom, provided no threats are posed to the independence, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, the States of the region also reaffirm their right to refuse to grant to the great Powers facilities for their warships or military aircraft which are or could be used in the context of great Power rivalries or for any other purpose that may be detrimental to the sovereignty, territorial integrity or security of the States in the Indian Ocean.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE  
INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

22. The Meeting recommends to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session to fix the date and the venue of the conference of the Indian Ocean as called for in Assembly resolution 33/68, and to entrust the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which should be expanded for this purpose, to undertake the preparatory work for the conference, including consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as referred to in paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI). The Meeting requests the General Assembly to invite the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, who have not yet done so, to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee in order to facilitate preparations for the conference.

23. All States concerned, especially the littoral and hinterland States, are called upon actively to explore in particular parts of the Indian Ocean area regional arrangements for the realization of the principles and objectives of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

34. The Meeting recommends to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to fix the date and the venue of the conference on the Indian Ocean as called for in General Assembly resolution 33/68, and to entrust the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which should be expanded for this purpose, to undertake the preparatory work for the conference including consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as referred to in paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI). The Meeting requests the General Assembly to invite the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, which have not yet done so, to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee in order to facilitate preparations for the conference.

35. All States concerned, especially the littoral and hinterland States, are called upon actively to explore in particular parts of the Indian Ocean area regional arrangements for the realization of the principles and objectives of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

36. During its session, the Meeting had before it the following documents:

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.199/1	Report of the <u>Ad Hoc Committee</u> on the Indian Ocean, performing the functions of a preparatory committee for the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean
A/AC.199/2	Provisional agenda
A/AC.199/3	Provisional rules of procedure
A/AC.199/4	Draft resolution embodying a draft Final Document of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean
WG/CRP/1/79-8/79 and 10/79-14/79	Conference room papers, containing proposals from delegations, and revised texts
WG/CRP/9/79	Draft report of the Working Group of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean
A/AC.199/L.1 and Rev.1	Report of the Working Group of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean

Document No.

Title

A/AC.199/L.2

Draft report of the Meeting of the Littoral and  
Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean

A/AC.199/WP.1/79  
and 2/79

Proposals by the President

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