

**REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 49 (A/36/49)



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 33/71 H of 14 December 1978, section III of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"Bearing in mind the decision adopted at its tenth special session to fix, during its thirty-third session, the date of the second special session devoted to disarmament,

"Desiring to contribute to the furthering and broadening of positive processes initiated through the laying down of the foundations of an international disarmament strategy at its tenth special session,

"1. Decides to convene a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

"2. Decides also to set up, at its thirty-fifth session, a preparatory committee for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament."

2. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/47 of 3 December 1980, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament composed of seventy-eight Member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographic distribution;

"2. Requests the Preparatory Committee to prepare a draft agenda for the special session, to examine all relevant questions relating to that session and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session its recommendations thereon, including those in respect of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly at its tenth special session;

"3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament not later than 1 April 1981;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph 3 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render

to it all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

"5. Requests the Preparatory Committee to meet for a short organizational session of not longer than one week before the end of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in order, inter alia, to set the dates for its substantive sessions;

"6. Further requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session an item entitled: 'Second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament'."

3. In accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 35/47, the President of the General Assembly, on the basis of consultations held in the First Committee, appointed the following States as members of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

4. In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 35/47, 49 Member States have communicated to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. These replies were circulated as documents (A/AC.206/2 and Add.1-9).

II. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN 1980 AND 1981

5. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 35/47, the Preparatory Committee met at the United Nations Headquarters for a short organizational session on 4 and 5 December 1980. Two substantive sessions were held from 4 to 15 May and from 5 to 16 October 1981. During these three sessions the Committee held 29 meetings. The Committee also held a number of informal meetings. The 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 4 December 1980, was opened by the Secretary-General who made a statement (A/AC.206/SR.1).

6. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Olu Adeniji (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairmen: The representatives of the following delegations:

Australia
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Benin
Bulgaria
German Democratic Republic
India
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Morocco
Peru
Yugoslavia

Rapporteur: Mr. Omer Ersun (Turkey)

7. At its 1st meeting, on 4 December 1980, following the example of the Preparatory Committee for the first special session devoted to disarmament, the Committee decided to be governed by the relevant parts of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Notwithstanding that decision, it was understood that every effort should be made to ensure that decisions on matters of substance would be adopted by consensus. It was further agreed that, should it prove impossible to secure consensus, the Chairman would then duly inform the Committee, so that the relevant decisions could be adopted in accordance with the provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee also agreed that the representatives of States not members of the Committee would be entitled to participate in its plenary meetings without the right to vote, as decided by the Preparatory Committee for the first special session on disarmament. In accordance with that decision, the representatives of Ireland and the Holy See participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee and made statements during the Committee's meetings.

9. At its 1st meeting, the Committee agreed to follow the practice of the Preparatory Committee of the first special session on disarmament with respect to the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutions. Accordingly, the Committee decided that such representatives could be present at meetings of the Committee and that they should provide the Secretariat with lists of communications received from such organizations that were conducting research in the field of disarmament (A/AC.206/INF.1 and Add.1-4). At its 17th meeting, on 15 May 1981, the Committee agreed to a recommendation made by its bureau that the organizations concerned should be allowed to make oral statements at one meeting during the October session of the Preparatory Committee. With regard to the representation of those organizations, the Committee agreed that the matter would be decided by the organizations themselves and that their decision would be conveyed to the Chairman of the Committee.

10. At its 1st meeting, on 4 December 1980, the Committee decided to invite the International Atomic Energy Agency and specialized agencies interested in disarmament to take part in the work of the Committee as observers. At the 22nd meeting of the Committee, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made a statement.

11. At its 25th meeting, on 9 October 1981, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations; Ad Hoc NGO Liaison Group of the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and the NGO Committee on Disarmament (at the United Nations Headquarters), Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, International Peace Bureau, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Peace Council, as well as three of the representatives who spoke on behalf of the NGO Committee on Disarmament (at United Nations). The Committee also heard statements by the representatives of the following peace research institutions: International Peace Research Association, the Stanley Foundation, Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies.

12. In the course of the Preparatory Committee's work, the following working papers were submitted by Member States:

(a) Working paper entitled "Principal objectives of international co-operation for speedier practical progress of disarmament negotiations", submitted by Czechoslovakia (A/AC.206/11, annex);

(b) Working paper on the implementation of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, containing, inter alia, an assessment of the main negotiating processes and regional disarmament efforts, submitted by Finland (A/AC.206/12);

(c) Working paper containing an annotated preliminary draft provisional agenda of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, submitted by Mexico (A/AC.206/13).

13. In accordance with the Committee's request at its 3rd meeting, on 5 December 1980, the Secretariat prepared the following background papers:

(a) Disarmament resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (A/AC.206/3);

(b) A comprehensive study of official proposals or declarations made and decisions taken by the General Assembly on the procedure of unilateral or negotiated moratoria as a provisional measure for the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, as well as their application by any State (A/AC.206/4 and Corr.1);

(c) A comprehensive study of the origin, development and present status of the various alternatives proposed for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (A/AC.206/5 and Corr.1);

(d) Report on the human and material resources available to the United Nations Secretariat for its work on disarmament and the organization of that work (A/AC.206/6);

(e) A synthesis of the arguments adduced for and against each of the four proposals for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that have been included in the agenda of the General Assembly (Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and

the South Pacific) and for and against the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, including a subject and country index (A/AC.206/7 and Add.1);

(f) Summary of studies in the field of disarmament prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of experts during the period 1977-1980 at the request of the General Assembly (A/AC.206/9);

(g) A comparative study of the scope originally proposed or aimed at in draft multilateral disarmament treaties of a universal character concluded under United Nations auspices and the scope finally fixed in those treaties, including the contemplated measures for expanding that scope (A/AC.206/10 and Corr.1);

(h) A list of disarmament and related proposals officially submitted to the United Nations (A/AC.206/15);

(i) A brief synopsis of disarmament and arms limitation negotiations since 1978 - including their results - carried out within the framework of the United Nations on a regional basis or bilaterally, with indication, where appropriate, of the procedures followed to keep the United Nations informed (A/AC.206/16 and Corr.1).

14. In addition, at the Committee's request at its 11th meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Secretariat prepared a series of compilations of views of Member States on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/AC.206/CRP.1 and Add.1-3, A/AC.206/CRP.2 and Add.1 and 2, A/AC.206/CRP.3 and Add.1 and A/AC.206/CRP.4 and Add.1).

15. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/83 E of 11 December 1979, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Study on the implications of establishing an international satellite monitoring agency" was circulated as a document of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.206/14).

16. The proceedings of the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, including the views expressed by delegations, are contained in the summary records (A/AC.206/SR.1-29).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

17. At its meetings, the Preparatory Committee decided by consensus to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session the recommendations set forth in paragraphs 18 to 29 below with regard to the organization of work of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the future work of the Preparatory Committee.

A. Organization of work of the special session

1. Provisional agenda

18. The Committee recommends the following provisional agenda for the special session:

1. Opening of the session in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. 1/
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
5. Organization of the session.
6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. General debate including:
 - Review and appraisal of the present international situation in the light of the pressing need for specific generally agreed measures to eliminate the danger of war, in particular nuclear war, halt and reverse the arms race and to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament, especially in its nuclear aspects, taking due account of the close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security, as well as between disarmament and economic and social development, particularly of the developing countries.
9. Review of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament:
 - Status of negotiations on disarmament as contained in the Programme of Action and bearing in mind the priorities set out in the Programme;
 - Consideration of the report of the Committee on Disarmament, in particular any draft instruments transmitted by the Committee;
 - Consideration of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
 - Consideration of the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly on specific tasks, in particular studies, aimed at the realization of the Final Document and their follow-up.

1/ Rule 30 of the rules of procedure provides that, at the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Assembly has elected a President for the session.

10. Consideration and adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament.
11. Implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade as well as consideration of initiatives and proposals of Member States.
12. Enhancing the effectiveness of machinery in the field of disarmament and strengthening of the role of the United Nations in this field, including the possible convening of a World Disarmament Conference.
13. Measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament:
 - Disarmament education, seminars and training (United Nations programme of fellowship on disarmament);
 - World Disarmament Campaign;
 - Other public information activities.
14. Adoption, in an appropriate format, of the document(s) of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

2. Date and duration

19. The special session should be held at United Nations Headquarters between 7 and 9 July 1982.

3. President

20. The Committee considers that, following the practice of previous special sessions, the General Assembly may wish to elect the President of the thirty-sixth session as the President of the special session.

4. Vice-Presidents

21. Vice-Presidents of the special session should be the same as at the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that regional groups may make substitutions of Vice-Presidents allocated to each group.

5. Main Committees

22. The special session should establish a committee of the whole, a working group on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament and as many open-ended groups or subsidiary organs as may be necessary. The Chairman of the committee of the whole should be elected by the General Assembly at its special session. In this connexion, the Committee recommends that the special session should be guided by the procedure of the tenth special session of the Assembly.

6. Credentials Committee

23. The Credentials Committee of the special session should be the same as that of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

7. General Committee

24. The General Committee of the special session should consist of the President of the special session of the General Assembly, the 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that they may be substituted by members of their delegations or members of the delegations of States belonging to the same regional group, the Chairman of the committee of the whole of the special session and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

8. Rules of procedure

25. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply in the special session without amendments, on the understanding that, regarding the adoption of decisions by the Assembly at the special session, every effort should be made to ensure that, in so far as possible, decisions on matters of substance will be adopted by consensus.

9. Level of representation

26. It would be desirable that Member States be represented at the special session at the highest possible political level.

10. Public information activities

27. The Committee recommends the adoption of the programme of public information activities submitted by the Secretariat (A/AC.206/18) on the understanding that, in so far as possible, such activities should be carried out within the regular budgets of the Department of Public Information and of the Centre for Disarmament of the Secretariat.

11. Role of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutions

28. The Committee recommends that non-governmental organizations concerned with disarmament and peace and disarmament research institutions should be accorded the same facilities at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as those which they had received at the first special session. However, in view of the importance of world public opinion for progress in disarmament, it is expected that even a greater spectrum of non-governmental organizations and their leaders will participate in the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. With regard to oral statements,

the Ad Hoc NGO Liaison Group of the two NGO disarmament committees at Geneva and United Nations Headquarters would make an appropriate speakers' list of representatives of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutions. This would be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee, through its Chairman, at its final session for appropriate recommendation to the special session.

B. Future work of the Preparatory Committee

29. The Preparatory Committee should hold one final session from 26 April to 14 May 1982 to continue consideration of substantive issues related to the special session, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly at its tenth special session, for incorporation in the document(s) to be adopted at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and any remaining organizational and procedural matters.

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