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CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE
OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Luvsangiin ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons: report of the Disarmament Committee" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/94 of 9 December 1981.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, 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 2nd meeting, on 29 September, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 57, 133 and 136. The general debate on these items and on items 138 and 139, which were allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 24th plenary meeting, on 8 October 1982, took place at the 3rd to 28th meetings, from 18 October to 5 November (see A/C.1/37/PV.3-28).
4. In connection with item 52, the First Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Disarmament. 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/37/27).

Recalling its resolutions 33/72 of 14 December 1978, 34/84 and 34/85 of 11 December 1979, 35/154 and 35/155 of 12 December 1980 and the relevant provisions of its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980 and its resolutions 36/94 and 36/95 of 9 December 1981,

Noting that the Committee on Disarmament considered in 1982 the item entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" and the work done by the ad hoc working group on this item,

Recalling the drafts of an international convention submitted on that item to the Committee on Disarmament in 1979, and noting with satisfaction that the idea of concluding such a convention has received widespread international support,

Taking note of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session 3/ as well as of the report of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/ including the reports of the ad hoc working group on the same item,

Wishing to promote an early and successful completion of the negotiations on the elaboration of a convention on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting that the idea of interim arrangements as a first step towards the conclusion of such a convention has also been considered in the Committee on Disarmament, particularly in the form of a Security Council resolution on this subject, and reaffirming the call made in that respect by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 35/154 and in paragraph 5 of its resolution 36/94,

Taking note of the recommendation contained in the special report of the Committee on Disarmament that ways and means should be explored by the Committee to overcome the difficulties encountered in the negotiations of the above-mentioned working group with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that abandoning policies of first use of nuclear weapons would, inter alia, constitute a substantive contribution to the efforts to achieve progress towards effective strengthening of the security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States,

Welcoming the solemn declarations concerning the non-first-use of nuclear weapons, in particular the obligation of nuclear-weapon States not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, assumed at highest political level or confirmed at the twelfth special session of the General Assembly,

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/37/27).

Convinced further that, if all nuclear-weapon States were to assume obligations not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, that would be tantamount, in practice, to banning the use of nuclear weapons against all States, including all non-nuclear-weapon States,

Bearing in mind that, in the search for a solution of the problem of security assurances, priority should be given to the legitimate security concerns of the non-nuclear-weapon States, which, by virtue of their forgoing the nuclear option and of not allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territories, have every right to expect to be most effectively guaranteed against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

1. Welcomes once again the conclusion of the Committee on Disarmament that there is continuing recognition of the urgent need to reach agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Committee on Disarmament there is once again no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention on this subject;

3. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations on the question of the strengthening of the security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States during its session in 1983;

4. Calls once again upon all States participating in these negotiations to make efforts to elaborate and conclude an international instrument of a legally binding character, such as an international convention, on this matter;

5. Calls once again upon all nuclear-weapon States to make solemn declarations, identical in substance, concerning the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States having no such weapons on their territories, as a first step towards the conclusion of an international convention, and recommends that the Security Council should examine such declarations and, if they all meet the above-mentioned objective, should adopt an appropriate resolution approving them;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".
