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Agenda item 55

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development: report of the Disarmament Commission" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38.71 B of 15 December 1983.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, 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 15 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 65 and item 142 which was allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 27th plenary meeting, on 9 October, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 36th meetings, from 17 October to 12 November (see A/C.1/39/PV.3-36).
4. In connection with item 55, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/39/42).

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development (A/39/229);

(c) Letter dated 9 February 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Quito Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Latin American Economic Conference, held at Quito from 12 to 13 January 1984 (A/39/118-E/1984/45);

(d) Letter dated 23 May 1984 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Declaration by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico, Mr. Julius Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece, and Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina, issued on 22 May 1984 at Athens, Buenos Aires, Dar es Salaam, Mexico City, New Delhi and Stockholm (A/39/277-S/16587);

(e) Note verbale dated 7 June 1984 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat (A/39/296-S/16619);

(f) Letter dated 27 September 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/529);

(g) Letter dated 8 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 1 to 5 October 1984 (A/39/560-S/16773).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.1/39/L.72 and Rev.1

5. On 12 November 1984, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cameroon, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development" (A/C.1/39/L.72), which was later also sponsored by Burkina Faso, Colombia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Greece, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Zaire. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of France at the 40th meeting, 15 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 38/71 B,

"Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

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"Considering:

- That world-wide military spending has acquired a staggering magnitude and the global trend continues to be towards a faster rate of annual increase in these expenditures,
- That this situation stands in dramatic contrast to the sombre state of the global economy and has serious implications for the economic prospects of the world and particularly those of the developing countries,
- That the world economy, and particularly that of developing countries, would benefit from appropriate international action that took into account the close relationship of disarmament and development,

"Also considering that in view of the importance and urgency of giving international consideration and practical expression to that relationship, the time has come for a comprehensive discussion of the subject at a high political level,

"Taking note of the report adopted by the Disarmament Commission (A/39/42) at the end of its 1984 session,

"Taking note, in particular, of the recommendation contained in the report of the Disarmament Commission according to which efforts should be continued to enable the General Assembly to reach, at its thirty-ninth session, a broad measure of agreement on the subject, taking into account the views expressed in the report (*ibid.*, p. 24, para. 12),

"1. Decides to convene an international conference on that subject, which should be preceded by thorough preparation;

"2. The purposes of the conference should be:

"(a) To review the relationship between disarmament and development in all its aspects and dimensions with a view to reaching appropriate conclusions;

"(b) To undertake an examination of the implications of the level and magnitude of the continuing military expenditures, in particular those of nuclear-weapons States and other militarily important States, for the world economy and international economic and social situation, particularly for the developing countries, and make recommendations for remedial measures;

"(c) To consider the ways and means of releasing additional resources, through disarmament measures, for development purposes, in particular in favour of developing countries, and in this context to discuss the possibility of creating a fund to this effect.

"3. Decides to set up a preparatory committee composed of 54 members, which should formulate and submit, by consensus, to the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, recommendations as to the provisional agenda, procedure, place, date and duration of the conference."

6. On 20 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/39/L.72/Rev.1), containing the following changes:

(a) The first operative paragraph was revised to read:

"Decides to convene an international conference on that subject, which should be preceded by thorough preparation and should take decisions by consensus;"

(b) In operative paragraph 2 (c), the words "and in this context to discuss the possibility of creating a fund to this effect", were deleted.

7. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications (A/C.1/39/L.79).

8. At its 46th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.72/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 38/71 B of 15 December 1983,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Considering:

(a) That world-wide military spending has acquired a staggering magnitude and the global trend continues to be towards a faster rate of annual increase in these expenditures,

(b) That this situation stands in dramatic contrast to the sombre state of the global economy and has serious implications for the economic prospects of the world and particularly those of the developing countries,

(c) That the world economy, and particularly that of developing countries, would benefit from appropriate international action that took into account the close relationship of disarmament and development,

Also considering that, in view of the importance and urgency of giving international consideration and practical expression to that relationship, the time has come for a comprehensive discussion of the subject at a high political level,

Taking note of the report adopted by the Disarmament Commission 3/ at the end of its 1984 session,

Taking note in particular of the recommendation contained in the report of the Disarmament Commission according to which efforts should be continued to enable the General Assembly to reach, at its thirty-ninth session, a broad measure of agreement on the subject, taking into account the views expressed in the report, 4/

1. Decides to convene an international conference on that subject, which should be preceded by thorough preparation and should take decisions by consensus;
2. Also decides that the purposes of the conference should be:
 - (a) To review the relationship between disarmament and development in all its aspects and dimensions with a view to reaching appropriate conclusions;
 - (b) To undertake an examination of the implications of the level and magnitude of the continuing military expenditures, in particular those of nuclear-weapons States and other militarily important States, for the world economy and the international economic and social situation, particularly for developing countries, and to make recommendations for remedial measures;
 - (c) To consider ways and means of releasing additional resources, through disarmament measures, for development purposes, in particular in favour of developing countries;
3. Further decides to set up a preparatory committee composed of 54 members, which should formulate and submit, by consensus, to the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, recommendations as to the provisional agenda, procedure, place, date and duration of the conference.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/39/42).

4/ Ibid., para. 27.