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Agenda item 56

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 38/72 ON THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ngaré KESSELY (Chad)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/72 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/72 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 56, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) 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);

(c) 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);

(d) 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);

(e) 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 RESOLUTION A/C.1/39/L.18

5. On 6 November, Afghanistan, Angola, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/72 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests" (A/C.1/39/L.18), which was later also sponsored by Bulgaria. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Hungary at the 37th meeting, on 14 November.

6. At its 47th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/39/L.18 by a recorded vote of 109 to 2, with 24 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Spain, Turkey, Zaire.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/72 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned over the intensification of the nuclear-arms race and the growing threat of nuclear war,

Recalling that over the past thirty years the need for cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon testing has been in the focus of attention of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming its conviction that the conclusion of a multilateral treaty on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests by all States would constitute an indispensable element for the success of efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race and the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and to prevent the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries,

Stressing once again that the elaboration of such a treaty is the task of the highest priority and should not be made dependent on the attainment of any other measure in the field of disarmament,

Deeply deploring that the Conference on Disarmament has, to date, been prevented from carrying out negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on such a treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this subject,

1. Resolutely urges all States, and especially all nuclear-weapon States, to exert maximum efforts and exercise political will for the elaboration and conclusion, without any delay, of a multilateral treaty on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests by all States;

2. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to proceed promptly to negotiations with a view to elaborating such a treaty as a matter of the highest priority, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, and, for that purpose, to establish an ad hoc Committee with a negotiating mandate;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/... on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests".
