

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/42/29)



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9.

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New York, 1987

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[14 July 1987]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 41/87 of 4 December 1986, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 1/ and the exchange of views of the Committee as well as taking note of the discussions on substantive matters in the Working Group established in accordance with the Ad Hoc Committee's decision of 11 July 1985, emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971; noted that the Ad Hoc Committee had been unable, during its four weeks of work in 1986, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference and urged the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination; requested the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference during 1987 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country, with a clear understanding that if preparatory work was not completed in 1987 serious consideration would be given to ways and means of more effectively organizing work in the Ad Hoc Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate; emphasized that the Conference called for in its resolution 34/80 B of 11 December 1979 and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace required the full and active participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States; decided that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that might ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference; requested the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference; renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requested the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions in 1987, each of a duration of two weeks, for the completion of preparatory work; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving that matter at the earliest possible date; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a full report on the implementation of the resolution; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

2. Pursuant to resolution 41/87, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions, from 23 March to 3 April (A/AC.159/SR.306-313) and from 22 June to 10 July (A/AC.159/SR.314-322), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 17 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1987. In

addition, the Working Group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in 1985 held a total of 11 meetings in the course of the two sessions of the Committee in 1987.

3. Following the appointment of Zimbabwe as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee by the President of the General Assembly on 6 May 1987 (see A/41/987), the Committee is at present composed of the following 49 Member States:

Australia	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
China	Pakistan
Democratic Yemen	Panama
Djibouti	Poland
Egypt	Romania
Ethiopia	Seychelles
France	Singapore
German Democratic Republic	Somalia
Germany, Federal Republic of	Sri Lanka
Greece	Sudan
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Italy	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	United States of America
Liberia	Yemen
Madagascar	Yugoslavia
Malaysia	Zambia
Maldives	Zimbabwe
Mauritius	

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B, Sweden continued to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Nissanka Wijewardane (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. John Okely (Australia)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Samsi Abdulah (Indonesia)
Mr. Manuel dos Santos (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1987 (A/AC.159/L.72), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 306th meeting, on 23 March 1987.

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Implementation of the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 41/87.
5. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-second session in accordance with resolution 41/87.
6. Other matters.

6. At the 306th meeting, on 23 March, the Chairman presented the following text concerning the organization of work, which was subsequently adopted by the Committee, by consensus:

"It has been decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, in recognition of its preparatory functions, will meet in formal and informal sessions as it considers appropriate to complete the organizational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In doing so, adequate time will be given both to organizational and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.

"For consideration of substantive issues, the Committee will take into account, inter alia, the political and security climate in the region and characteristics of the zone as given in documents placed before the Committee or discussed during the session. The Committee will also give consideration to all other documents before it.

"It has been decided further that the open-ended Working Group will continue to meet during the scheduled sessions of the Committee with a mandate to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive issues relating to the establishment of a zone of peace with a view to, inter alia, recommending to the Ad Hoc Committee elements which might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. Meetings of the Committee and the open-ended Working Group will not take place concurrently."

B. Preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean

7. During seven formal meetings, from 24 March to 3 April (307th-313th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee undertook consideration of item 4 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work referred to above. The Committee agreed to consider further the draft framework of the provisional agenda for the Conference on the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/L.60) and the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/AC.159/L.61) at a time nearer the opening of the Conference.
8. The open-ended Working Group established by the Committee in 1985 continued its work during 1987 under the chairmanship of Mr. Nihal Rodrigo (Sri Lanka) and continued to operate under the mandate given to it in 1985.
9. A communication containing an excerpt of the speech made in the Indian Parliament by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, was circulated as a document of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.73).
10. At the 313th meeting, on 3 April, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Committee, a working paper entitled "Stages of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.74).
11. During nine formal meetings, from 22 June to 19 July (314th-322nd meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued the consideration of item 4 of its agenda.
12. Following the 314th meeting, on 22 June, the open-ended Working Group continued its discussion of substantive issues under the chairmanship of Mr. Nihal Rodrigo. To facilitate the work of the Working Group, the Chairman prepared and presented to the Working Group on 30 June an informal paper which contained a list of 20 points. All delegations agreed that the informal paper should help structure future discussion in the Working Group. The Working Group made progress in its meetings during the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1987. It was agreed that the Working Group should continue to function within its mandate.
13. At the 316th meeting, on 26 June, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced, on behalf of a group of socialist States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, a working paper entitled "Confidence-building measures in the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.75).
14. At the 316th meeting, on 26 June, the representative of Sri Lanka made a formal offer, on behalf of his Government, to host one of the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1988 at Colombo. While there were views welcoming and supporting this offer, there were also other views expressing reservations on the holding of sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee outside New York.

C. Expansion of the Ad Hoc Committee

15. In a letter dated 23 March 1987, Zimbabwe applied for membership in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

16. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 34/80 B, by which the General Assembly decided to enlarge the Committee by the addition of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Committee, at its 312th meeting, on 2 April, decided to recommend Zimbabwe for appointment to the Committee. On the basis of the Committee's recommendation, the President of the General Assembly, on 6 May, appointed Zimbabwe as an additional member of the Committee (see A/41/987).

D. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-second session

17. The draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.76) was introduced by its Rapporteur, Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar), at the Committee's 317th meeting, on 1 July.

18. At the 320th meeting on 9 July, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.77).

19. At its 322nd meeting, on 10 July, the Committee adopted by consensus its report to the General Assembly as contained in document A/AC.159/L.76, as orally amended.

III. RECOMMENDATION

20. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 3/ and the exchange of views in the Committee;
2. Takes note of the discussions on substantive issues in the Working Group established in accordance with the Ad Hoc Committee's decision of 11 July 1985;
3. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace adopted in 1971;
4. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;
5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three preparatory sessions in 1988, each of a duration of one week, one session of which could be held at Colombo in accordance with a decision to be taken by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session in 1988;
6. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee, should the preparatory work not be completed to enable the convening of the Conference in 1988, to complete the remaining work during its subsequent sessions in order to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date, but not later than 1990, in consultation with the host country;
7. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee will, during its preparatory sessions in 1988, give serious consideration to ways and means of more

effectively organizing work in the Ad Hoc Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

8. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work;

9. Request: the Ad Hoc Committee to present a report on its work to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament;

10. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

12. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function, as well as verbatim transcripts for a possible meeting at Colombo.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/41/29).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/42/29).

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