

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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SECOND SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 46 (A/42/46)**



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#### **NOTE**

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[16 June 1987]

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 5	1
II. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN 1986 AND 1987 .....	6 - 14	3
III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN 1987 .....	15 - 26	5
A. Organization of work of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament .....	16 - 25	5
B. Future work of the Preparatory Committee .....	26	8

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted, on 15 December 1983, resolution 38/73 I on the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the decision adopted at its twelfth special session to set, during its thirty-eighth session, the date of the third special session devoted to disarmament, 1/

"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 that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be held not later than 1988;

"2. Decides also to set, not later than at its fortieth session, the date of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to make appropriate arrangements concerning the establishment of a preparatory committee for that third special session."

2. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 39/63 I on 12 December 1984, in the operative paragraph of which it decided to set, at its fortieth session, the date of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to establish the Preparatory Committee for the third special session.

3. At its fortieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/151 I on 16 December 1985, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"Decides to set, at its forty-first session, the date of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to establish the Preparatory Committee for the third special session."

4. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/60 G on 3 December 1986, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Decides to convene its third special session on disarmament in 1988 and to establish an open-ended Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament;

"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 forty-second session its recommendations thereon;

"3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session on disarmament not later than 1 April 1987;

"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 before the end of the forty-first session of the General Assembly in order, inter alia, to set the date for its substantive session;

"6. Further requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session,

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

5. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 41/60 G, 31 Member States communicated to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. These replies were circulated in documents A/AC.230/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1-7.

## II. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN 1986 AND 1987

6. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament held an organizational session at United Nations Headquarters on 5 December 1986. The session was opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

7. At its meeting, on 5 December, the Committee adopted the agenda for the session as contained in document A/AC.230/1, and decided that its 1987 substantive session should be held from 26 May to 5 June 1987.

8. During its substantive session in 1987, the Preparatory Committee held nine meetings.

9. The Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Mansur Ahmad (Pakistan)

Vice-Chairmen: The representatives of the following delegations:

Argentina  
Australia  
Bahamas  
Czechoslovakia  
Hungary  
Japan  
Mongolia  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Romania  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Togo  
Uruguay  
Yugoslavia  
Zaire

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro Nuñez-Mosquera (Cuba)

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 26 May 1987, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for the session, as contained in document A/AC.230/3.

11. At its 6th meeting, on 29 May 1987, following the practice of the Preparatory Committees for the first and second special sessions of the General Assembly 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 Assembly.

12. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed to follow the practice of the Preparatory Committees for the first and second special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament with respect to the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutions. Accordingly, the Preparatory 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. In addition, the Committee agreed that the organizations concerned should be allowed to make oral statements at one meeting during the next 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.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to invite the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the specialized agencies interested in disarmament to take part in the work of the Committee as observers.

14. Further, at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish an informal open-ended group, chaired by the Chairman of the Committee, for the consideration of issues related both to the future work of the Preparatory Committee and to the third special session itself.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN 1987

15. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 1987, the Preparatory Committee decided by consensus to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session the recommendations set forth in paragraphs 16 to 26 below with regard to the organization of work of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the future work of the Preparatory Committee.

#### A. Organization of work of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

##### 1. Provisional agenda

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

1. Opening of the session in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.\*
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the third 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 Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. General debate.
9. Review and appraisal of the present international situation, especially in the light of the vital objective of terminating the arms race and the pressing need to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament.
10. Assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament:

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\* Rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that, at the opening of each session of the 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.

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;
  - (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission;
  - (c) Resolutions of the General Assembly in the field of arms limitations and disarmament;
  - (d) Status of negotiations on arms limitations and disarmament in bilateral and various multilateral forums.
11. Consideration and adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament.
  12. Assessment of developments and trends, including qualitative and quantitative aspects, relevant to the disarmament process, with a view to the elaboration of appropriate concrete and practical measures and, if necessary, additional principles, taking duly into account the principles and priorities established in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament.
  13. Consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and of the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery.
  14. United Nations information and educational activities in the field of disarmament, including measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament;
    - (a) World Disarmament Campaign;
    - (b) Other public information activities.
  15. Adoption, in an appropriate format, of the document(s) of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

## 2. Date and duration

17. It is recommended that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be held at United Nations Headquarters in 1988 prior to the forty-third regular session of the Assembly.

## 3. President

18. The Preparatory Committee considers that, following the practice of previous special sessions, the General Assembly may wish to elect the President of the forty-second session of the Assembly as the President of the third special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament.

## 4. Vice-Presidents

19. Vice-Presidents of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be the same as at the forty-second regular session of the

Assembly, on the understanding that regional groups may make substitutions of Vice-Presidents allocated to each group.

#### 5. Main Committees

20. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should establish a committee of the whole 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 Assembly at its special session. In this connection, the Preparatory Committee recommends that at the third special session the Assembly should be guided by the procedure of the twelfth special session.

#### 6. Credentials Committee

21. The Credentials Committee of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be the same as that of the forty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

#### 7. General Committee

22. The General Committee of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should consist of the President of the third special session of the Assembly, the 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the forty-second session of the 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 third special session and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

#### 8. Rules of procedure

23. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply in the third 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

24. It would be desirable that Member States be represented at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament at the highest possible political level.

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

25. The Preparatory Committee recommends that non-governmental organizations concerned with disarmament and peace and disarmament research institutions should be accorded the same facilities at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as those which they had received at the first and second special sessions of the Assembly devoted to disarmament.

B. Future work of the Preparatory Committee

26. It is recommended that the Preparatory Committee should hold its third session from 25 January to 5 February 1988 at United Nations Headquarters, with the understanding that the Preparatory Committee, at that session, would determine the need for any subsequent session(s).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, document A/S-12/32, para. 66.

2/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.

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