



Fourteenth session
Agenda item 70

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Mohieddine FEKINI (Libya)

1. On 19 September 1959, the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested (A/4218) the inclusion of the item "General and complete disarmament" in the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. Accompanying the request was a document (A/4219) entitled "Declaration of the Soviet Government on general and complete disarmament", which was submitted for the consideration of the Assembly by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 18 September 1959.
3. At its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, the General Assembly adopted the recommendation of the General Committee (A/4222), without objection, and included this question as item 70 in the agenda of the fourteenth session.
4. At its meeting on 8 October 1959, the First Committee, without objection, adopted the Chairman's suggestion that "General and complete disarmament" should be the first item in the Committee's agenda.
5. The First Committee debated the item at its 1026th to its 1042nd meetings during the period from 9 October 1959 to 2 November 1959. The following documents were also submitted to it:

(a) Note verbale dated 28 September 1959 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/818, dated 1 October 1959);

(b) United Kingdom Declaration on Comprehensive Disarmament made by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 September 1959 (A/C.1/820, dated 16 October 1959);

(c) Suggestions of the French Delegation (extract from the statement made by Mr. Jules Moch in the First Committee on 22 October 1959) (A/C.1/821, dated 27 October 1959).

6. On 28 October 1959, a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.234), sponsored by all Member States, was submitted, whereby the General Assembly would: (a) call upon Governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of the problem of general and complete disarmament; (b) transmit to the Disarmament Commission and request the Secretary-General to make available to the ten-nation disarmament committee the Declaration of the United Kingdom of 17 September 1959 and the Declaration of the USSR of 18 September 1959, and the other proposals or suggestions made, as well as the records of the plenary meetings and the meetings of the First Committee at which the question of general and complete disarmament was discussed; and (c) express the hope that measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control would be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time.

7. At its 1042nd meeting on 2 November 1959, the First Committee unanimously adopted the joint draft resolution.

Recommendation of the First Committee

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

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Moved by the desire to save the present and succeeding generations from the danger of a new and disastrous war,

Striving to put an end completely and forever to the armaments race which places a heavy burden on mankind, and to use resources thus released for the benefit of mankind,

/...

Desiring to promote the creation of relations of trust and peaceful co-operation between States,

Mindful of the resolution of the United Nations Disarmament Commission of 10 September 1959,^{1/}

Being convinced that any progress towards the goal of complete and general disarmament under effective international control will contribute to the achievement of these high aims,

Considering that the question of general and complete disarmament is the most important one facing the world today,

Calls upon Governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem;

Transmits to the United Nations Disarmament Commission and requests the Secretary-General to make available to the ten-nation disarmament committee for thorough consideration the Declaration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of 17 September 1959, and the Declaration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 18 September 1959, and the other proposals or suggestions made, as well as the records of the plenary meetings and the meetings of the First Committee at which the question of general and complete disarmament was discussed;

Expresses the hope that measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control will be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time.
