

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-THIRD SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/43/29)



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NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 42/43 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean ^{1/} and the exchange of views in the Committee as well as taking 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, 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; 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 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; requested 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; noted that the Ad Hoc Committee would, 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; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to present a report on its work to the Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Assembly at its forty-third session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution; 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 are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date; 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; 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, as well as verbatim transcripts for a possible meeting at Colombo.

2. Pursuant to resolution 42/43, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions, a first session from 11 to 15 April (see A/AC.159/SR.323-331) and a combined second and third session from 11 to 22 July 1988 (A/AC.159/SR.332-344), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 22 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1988. In addition, the Working Group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in 1985 held a total of five meetings in the course of the two sessions of the Committee in 1988.

3. The Committee is composed of the following 49 Member States:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Democratic Yemen
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius

Mozambique
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 30/80 B, Sweden continued to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. At its 323rd meeting, on 11 April 1988, the Ad Hoc Committee elected its Chairman and two Vice-Chairpersons. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Daya Perera (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Jill Courtney (Australia)

Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic)

Mr. Isslamet Poernomo (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 1988 (A/AC.159/L.79), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 323rd meeting:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Chairman.
3. Election of two Vice-Chairmen.
4. Election of the Chairman of the Working Group.
5. Adoption of the agenda.
6. Organization of work.
7. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/43;
 - (a) Work on the substantive and organizational issues related to the Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 of resolution 42/43;
 - (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its work to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament;
 - (c) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of resolution 42/43.
8. Other matters.

6. Also at the 323rd meeting, the Chairman presented the following text concerning the organization of work, which was subsequently adopted by consensus by the Committee:

"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 preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.

"For the 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 nine formal meetings, from 11 to 15 April (323rd-331st meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee undertook consideration of item 7 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work.

8. The Committee considered and welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of Sri Lanka at the 316th meeting, on 26 June 1987, to hold the second preparatory session in 1988 at Colombo. A large number of delegations considered it an important step on the road to the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. As reflected in the summary record of the 330th meeting of the Committee, the Chairman ruled that a decision to hold the second session at Colombo could not be arrived at owing to a formal objection raised by one delegation.

9. During 13 formal meetings, from 11 to 22 July (332nd-344th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued the consideration of item 7 of its agenda.

10. Following the 332nd meeting, on 11 July, the open-ended Working Group established by the Committee in 1985 continued its work under the chairmanship of Mr. Edmond Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka) and continued to operate under the mandate given to it in 1985. The Working Group, in its five meetings as well as in various consultations, undertook consideration of 20 substantive issues and principles relating to the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean as contained in the informal paper submitted by Mr. Nihal Rodrigo on 30 June 1987.

11. At the 335th meeting, on 14 July, Mr. Edmond Jayasinghe, the Chairman of the Working Group, presented his report on the work of the Working Group to the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.159/L.85), containing 20 substantive issues and principles which the Group had agreed constituted a good basis for further elaboration.

12. At its 344th meeting, on 22 July, the Committee decided to update the views contained in document A/AC.159/L.55 and Add.1-5 with the objective of facilitating its future work on substantive issues. Accordingly, the members of the Committee were invited to submit their views on the topics therein to the secretariat by 1 February 1989. The secretariat was requested to compile those views and to distribute them to the members of the Committee as soon as possible, but not later than three weeks prior to the convening of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1989.

**C. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly
at its fifteenth special session**

13. At the 323rd meeting, on 11 April, the Chairman introduced the draft text of the introduction and of section I of the draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament (A/AC.159/L.80). At the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft text of section II of the report of the Committee to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session (A/AC.159/L.81). At the 327th meeting, on 13 April, the representative of Australia, on behalf of the Western European and other States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft text of section II of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session (A/AC.159/L.82).

14. At its 323rd to 331st meetings, the Committee revised the draft report submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.159/L.80 and Add.1) and, at its 331st meeting, adopted by consensus its report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session. 2/

**D. New applications for participation in the work
of the Ad Hoc Committee**

15. In the course of the year the Ad Hoc Committee received applications for participation in its work from Democratic Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Afghanistan. The Committee requested the Chairman, pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 42/43, to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by those three States Members of the United Nations.

**E. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee
to the General Assembly at its forty-third session**

16. The draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.84) was introduced by its Rapporteur, Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar), at the Committee's 341st meeting, on 20 July.

17. At the 337th meeting on 18 July, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.83).

18. At its 344th meeting, on 22 July, the Committee adopted by consensus its report to the General Assembly as contained in document A/AC.159/L.84, as orally amended.

III. RECOMMENDATION

19. 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, 42/43 of 30 November 1987 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 3/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Further convinced that the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the urgent convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo and that the further easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success of the Conference,

Considering that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Recalling the decision of the Ad Hoc Committee to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area and progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including dates for its convening,

Noting that, in accordance with resolution 42/43 the Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report, 2/ adopted by consensus, to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, and urged it to reaffirm its full support for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Noting further that the Ad Hoc Committee has requested the Secretary-General to continue to extend to it all necessary assistance in order to facilitate the intensification of the Committee's work towards the implementation of its mandate and to enable the completion of its remaining preparatory work for the early convening of the Conference, as repeatedly called for by the Assembly, in particular in its resolution 42/43,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 4/
2. Reaffirms full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;
3. Reiterates and 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. Notes with satisfaction that in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, progress has been made by the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 1988;
6. Urges the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions of substantive issues and principles, including those identified by the Chairman of the Working Group in his report dated 14 July 1988, 5/ with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference on the Indian Ocean;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1989, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1990 in consultation with the host country;

8. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee, during its preparatory sessions in 1989, will continue to keep under review the need to organize its work more effectively in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

9. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee should commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place in July 1979, during its preparatory sessions in 1989;

10. 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;

11. 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;

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

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.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/42/29).

2/ Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/S-15/5).

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

4/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/43/29).

5/ A/AC.159/L.85.