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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/43/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/38 J entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament", the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Deems it important that all Member States make every effort to facilitate the consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, and thus show their resolve to arrive at mutually acceptable, comprehensively verifiable and effective disarmament measures;

"2. Invites all Member States to make available to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the situation with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, on an annual basis, a report regarding the developments in the field of arms limitations and disarmament, which would include all relevant information provided by Member States concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, as well as their views on possible avenues to improve the situation in this respect;

"4. Calls upon all Member States to render every assistance to the Secretary-General in fulfilling the request contained in paragraph 3 above;

"5. Decides to continue its consideration of the issue of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament at its forty-third session."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 16 February 1988, requested all Member States to submit their views and suggestions. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Mexico and Mongolia. The replies are reproduced in section II of the present report.

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II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[6 April 1988]

1. The German Democratic Republic is in favour of an increased contribution on the part of the United Nations to efforts to maintain peace, terminate the arms race and advance disarmament, and to seek solutions to all global problems facing humanity. Therefore, the German Democratic Republic supports any measures that will allow the Organization to fulfil effectively its central role and its singularly important obligations in the disarmament field.
2. In order to enhance the international authority of the General Assembly as the United Nations main deliberative organ on disarmament matters, it would be essential to strengthen the binding force, both moral and political, of the resolutions and other documents adopted by it on disarmament issues, in particular its decisions taken by consensus, which are the paramount reflection of the unanimous will of the international community of States. The forthcoming third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should constitute a contribution along these lines.
3. In this context, the German Democratic Republic recalls the historic significance of the Final Document adopted by consensus at the first special session on disarmament, which has been the first instrument in the history of disarmament negotiations to set forth an international strategy for disarmament. The document should remain the conceptual and practical blueprint for multilateral efforts for disarmament and be translated into practice through specific measures by all States.
4. General Assembly resolution 42/37 A, which was also adopted by consensus, is another expression of the unanimity among United Nations Member States. All countries should therefore contribute actively and constructively to the earliest possible completion of the convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction. In Assembly resolution 42/38 H, the community of Member States urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to discharge their special responsibility for nuclear disarmament and agree as soon as possible on the drastic reduction of their nuclear arsenals.
5. Every State should see to it that bilateral and multilateral efforts for nuclear disarmament complement and facilitate each other.
6. The political will and readiness of all Member States to engage in a constructive dialogue and in result-oriented negotiations is an essential prerequisite for the implementation of resolutions in the disarmament field. Deliberations in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies offer major

opportunities for Member States to exchange their views with the aim of bringing them closer together. In this way, negotiations on specific measures of disarmament can be thoroughly prepared and facilitated. In accordance with what has been called for in resolutions adopted at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, the German Democratic Republic considers that the initiation of multilateral negotiations in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on the following subjects is of particular urgency:

(a) Conclusion of an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects (resolution 42/33);

(b) Preparation of a treaty on the complete cessation of all nuclear-test explosions (resolutions 42/26 A and 42/27);

(c) Agreement on recommendations for the start of multilateral negotiations on the cessation of the qualitative improvement and the production of all types of nuclear weapons, their means of delivery, and of fissionable material for weapons purposes, as well as on the reduction of existing nuclear weapons with a view to their ultimate elimination (resolution 42/42 C).

7. In their practical approaches in implementing General Assembly resolutions on disarmament, all States should be guided by the absolute need for words to be matched by deeds, and should refrain from any action running counter to the letter and spirit of such resolutions. The German Democratic Republic expresses its concern about intentions to undercut the treaty between the USSR and the USA on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, whose conclusion was expressly welcomed by the General Assembly in its decision 42/407 and resolutions 42/38 A, 42/38 D and 42/42 M, by compensatory measures to build up and modernize categories of nuclear weapons not covered by that agreement.

8. The German Democratic Republic condemns the commencement of the production of binary chemical weapons as a step that is diametrically opposed to a convention on the world-wide prohibition of chemical weapons as called for in resolution 42/37 A, jeopardizes the pertinent negotiations and encourages the proliferation of chemical weapons.

9. Participants in disarmament talks, multilateral, regional or bilateral, held outside the United Nations framework should conduct their negotiations with due regard for the positions of the international community of States as embodied in General Assembly resolutions on disarmament and irrespective of the course of the negotiations in question, and should keep Member States informed about the results of their negotiations. All States should constructively consider to what extent they can make unilateral moves or gestures of goodwill on the basis of mutual example, which may encourage other States to respond positively, so as to facilitate the disarmament negotiations concerned, thereby living up to what has been called for in resolutions on disarmament.

10. Broad publication of General Assembly resolutions on disarmament would greatly assist in further mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of their implementation. For the purpose of providing comprehensive information to the

international public, the report regarding developments in the field of arms limitations and disarmament, which the Secretary-General will have to prepare pursuant to resolution 42/38 J, should cover, inter alia:

- (a) The essence of the resolutions on disarmament;
- (b) Activities for the implementation of the resolutions and follow-up measures;
- (c) The progress and results of disarmament negotiations held pursuant to these resolutions.

11. All States are called upon to provide requisite information to the Secretary-General and to render him every assistance in a co-operative spirit. The Secretary-General's report on the subject should be widely publicized in the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign or through other appropriate channels of communication.

GHANA

[Original: English]

[9 March 1988]

As a developing country, Ghana has applied its scarce economic resources to the resolution of the social and economic problems of its people rather than on military budgets. This is not only consistent with Ghana's national agenda but also the United Nations resolutions concerning arms limitation and disarmament.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[8 July 1988]

1. Mexico attaches the greatest importance to the General Assembly resolutions on disarmament as an essential means of strengthening international peace and security. It believes that the United Nations is the appropriate forum for considering and negotiating on problems which could give rise to international tension and endanger the future of mankind.

2. Aware that, despite the enormous efforts made by the Organization in the sphere of disarmament, it has not been possible to progress to the extent hoped, the Government of Mexico believes that there is a vital and urgent need to make some changes in respect of the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on disarmament in order to make the work of the Organization truly viable and contribute more effectively to the preservation of international peace and security as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. It would be highly beneficial for resolutions adopted by the General Assembly to be more closely linked with the decisions adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in order to ensure their implementation. At the same time though, this unique forum of multilateral negotiations in the area of disarmament must apply itself to the early conclusion of international legal agreements on the items on its agenda. Considering, however, that for a number of years the Conference has not made significant progress, mainly because the consensus rule is being used by some States as a means of obstructing its work, the Government of Mexico reiterates its conviction that article 25 of the rules of procedure of the Conference should be amended so that the consensus rule cannot be used to prevent the establishment of subsidiary bodies (ad hoc committees, working groups, etc.) that the Conference deems necessary for the performance of its functions. This would lead to greater progress in its work and, consequently, a more effective application of the General Assembly resolutions linked with the items on the Conference's agenda.

4. The Government of Mexico also believes that an exchange of information between those States which have the technical and financial resources and have been able to implement and put into effect some of the General Assembly's resolutions so that other States may have the possibility of implementing those resolutions, would be a measure of significant value for the more effective implementation of the General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament.

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[24 June 1988]

1. The General Assembly resolutions on disarmament issues place great moral and political responsibility on Member States to take concrete action in the area of disarmament. However, not all States are equally mindful of that obligation, and as a result many resolutions remain unimplemented for years.

2. This state of affairs prevents the United Nations from effectively discharging the role and responsibility assigned to it in the field of disarmament, and harms its prestige. It is therefore necessary to activate and bring into operation to the greatest possible extent in disarmament matters the full potential and reserves of the United Nations and its machinery such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission. A very important role in implementing General Assembly resolutions is played by the Conference on Disarmament - the only multilateral body for disarmament negotiations.

3. The Security Council can and should become actively involved in the struggle for disarmament, and should hold special meetings on disarmament questions.

4. Serious consideration should be given to the question of rationalizing the work of the First Committee; in particular, more time should be devoted to consultations and negotiations on draft resolutions. It is also necessary to enhance the role of the Secretary-General in the implementation of resolutions. In

particular, he could submit a report to the General Assembly on the disarmament process which would provide information on progress in the implementation of resolutions. Moreover, the Department for Disarmament Affairs could prepare information every year on the situation with regard to the implementation of resolutions, for submission to the General Assembly at its regular sessions.

5. Recently there has been a tendency to a growth in the number of consensus resolutions. It is important not only to work towards the adoption of resolutions on a consensus basis, but also to ensure that the consensus genuinely reflects the practical readiness of all the participants to implement disarmament measures.

6. In this respect, the implementation of the final documents of the first and third special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament is of enormous significance.
