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PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS:
REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution **43/72** of 7 December 1988.

2. At its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October 1990, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/45/235), decided to allocate item 155 to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see **A/C.1/45/PV.3-23**). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see **A/C.1/45/PV.24-39**).

4. In connection with item 155, the First Committee had before it the following document: report of the Conference on Disarmament. 1/

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS **A/C.1/45/L.27 AND Rev.1**

5. On 31 October, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new **systems** of such weapons" (**A/C.1/45/L.27**).

6. On 9 November, Afghanistan, Austria, Benin, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, India, Italy, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongo the Netherlands, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam submitted a revised draft resolution (**A/C.1/45/L.27/Rev.1**), which was introduced by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 34th meeting, on 12 November. The draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) In the **second** preambular paragraph, "Bearina in mind" was replaced by "Noting";

(b) Operative paragraph 5, which had read:

"5. Requists the Conference on Disarmament to report **annually** on the results of its consideration of these questions to the General Assembly",

was revised to read:

"5. Reauests the Conference on Disarmament to continue the practice of reporting the results of its consideration of these questions in its annual report to the General Assembly":

(c) In operative paragraph 6, "forty-seventh session" was replaced by "forty-eighth session".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution **A/C.1/45/L.27/Rev.1** without a **vote** (see **para. 8**).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, **Supplement No. 27** (A/45/27).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Noting paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948, 3/

Noting that in the course of its 1989 and 1990 sessions the Conference on Disarmament considered the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",

Taking into account the sections of the reports of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 4/

1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be undertaken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction:

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to keep under review, with expert assistance, as appropriate, the questions of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on the identified types of such weapons;

2/ Resolution S-1012.

3/ The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27), sect. III.G and ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/45/27), sect. III.G.

3. ~~Calls upon~~ all States, immediately following the recommendation **of** the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to these recommendations:

4. ~~Requests the~~ Secretary-General to transmit to the **Conference** on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session:

5. ~~Requests the~~ Conference on Disarmament to continue the practice of reporting the results of its consideration of these questions in its annual report to the General Assembly;

6. ~~Decides~~ to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "~~Prohibition~~ of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of **mass** destruction ~~and~~ new **systems** of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".