



Twentieth session
Agenda item 95

QUESTION OF CONVENING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ismail FAHMY (United Arab Republic)

1. At its 98th meeting, on 11 June 1965, the Disarmament Commission adopted a resolution which welcomed the proposal adopted at the Second Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in October 1964 for the convening of a world disarmament conference to which all countries would be invited, and recommended that the General Assembly give urgent consideration to this proposal at its twentieth session (DC/224). In consequence, the item was included by the Secretary-General on the provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the General Assembly (A/5950/Rev.1).
2. At its 159th meeting, on 22 September 1965, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee (A/5988). At its 1336th meeting, on 24 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report (A/5991/Rev.1).
3. At its 1354th meeting, on 15 October, the First Committee decided to consider the question of convening a world disarmament conference as the second item of its agenda (A/C.1/900).
4. The item was considered at the 1374th to 1381st meetings, held between 17 and 23 November 1965.
5. At the 1374th meeting of the First Committee, on 17 November, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.340) was submitted by Algeria, Burma, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait,

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia. The draft resolution was subsequently co-sponsored also by Dahomey, Iraq and Rwanda (A/C.1/L.340/Add.1), Central African Republic and Ivory Coast (A/C.1/L.340/Add.2), Cuba (A/C.1/L.340/Add.3) and Burundi. By the draft resolution, the General Assembly would: (1) endorse the proposal adopted at the Second Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cairo in 1964, on the convening of a world disarmament conference to which all countries would be invited; and (2) urge that the necessary consultations be conducted with all countries for the purpose of establishing a widely representative preparatory committee which would take appropriate steps for the convening of a world disarmament conference not later than 1967.

6. At the 1377th meeting, on 19 November, Saudi Arabia submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.344) to the draft resolution, which would (1) insert a new operative paragraph 2 to read as follows: "2. Invites the five major nuclear Powers to meet, formally or informally, within the next nine months at any place convenient to them in order to explore possible areas of agreement on world disarmament questions, as a prelude to convening a world disarmament conference;" and (2) change the present operative paragraph 2 as follows: "3. Urges, after due consultations among all States, that a standing committee be established for the twofold purpose of (a) acting as a liaison between the said five nuclear Powers and lending its good offices to them when required; and (b) taking such steps as may be appropriate, in the event these Powers concur, for convening a world disarmament conference not later than 1967."

7. At the 1379th meeting, on 22 November, Saudi Arabia submitted a revised text of its amendments (A/C.1/L.344/Rev.1) to the draft resolution, which would (1) insert a new operative paragraph 2 to read as follows: "2. Appeals to the major nuclear Powers to meet informally within the next nine months at any place convenient to them in order to explore possible areas of agreement on world disarmament questions, as a prelude to convening a world disarmament conference;" and (2) change the present operative paragraph 2 as follows: "3. Urges, after due consultations among all States through the Secretary-General or independently by direct or indirect contacts, that a standing committee be established for the threefold purpose of (a) acting as a liaison between the major nuclear Powers and lending its

good offices to them when required; (b) taking such steps as may be appropriate, in the event these Powers concur, for convening a world disarmament conference not later than 1967; and (c) reporting the results of their negotiations to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly."

8. At the 1379th meeting on 22 November the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted a revised text (A/C.1/L.340/Rev.1) containing an additional operative paragraph by which the General Assembly would urge further that all countries be kept informed, as appropriate, of the results achieved by the preparatory committee in accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution.

9. At the 1381st meeting, on 23 November, it was announced that the representative of Saudi Arabia did not wish to press for a vote on his amendments (A/C.1/L.344/Rev.1).

10. At the same meeting, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.340/Rev.1) by a roll-call vote of 91 to none, with 1 abstention. The result of the voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France.

The representative of Uganda stated in the Committee after the vote that had he been present at the time of voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution. The representative of Guatemala stated in the Committee after the vote, on behalf of his delegation and of the delegations of Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, that had those delegations been present at the time of voting, they would also have voted in favour of the draft resolution. The representative of Panama also stated in the Committee after the vote that had he been present at the time of voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Question of convening a world disarmament conference

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the continuing interest and responsibility of the United Nations in connexion with the solution of the disarmament problem,

Reaffirming the paramount importance of disarmament for the contemporary world and the urgent need for the achievement of this goal,

Believing that it is imperative to exert further efforts towards reaching agreement on general and complete disarmament with effective international control, with a view to securing lasting peace in the world,

Convinced that all countries should contribute towards the accomplishment of disarmament and co-operate in taking immediate steps with a view to achieving progress in this field,

Convinced also that a world disarmament conference would promote the realization of general and complete disarmament,

Reaffirming the resolution adopted by the Disarmament Commission on 11 June 1965,^{1/}

1. Endorses the proposal adopted at the Second Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo in 1964, on the convening of a world disarmament conference to which all countries would be invited.

2. Urges that the necessary consultations be conducted with all countries for the purpose of establishing a widely representative preparatory committee which will take appropriate steps for the convening of a world disarmament conference not later than 1967;

3. Urges further that all countries be kept informed, as appropriate, of the results achieved by the preparatory committee in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
