



Twentieth session
Agenda item 105

DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ismail FAHMY (United Arab Republic)

1. The item "Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa" was included on the agenda of the twentieth session of the General Assembly on the basis of a request contained in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 14 September 1965, by the permanent representatives of Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia (A/5975).
2. At its 160th meeting, on 24 September 1965, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee (A/5989). At its 1336th meeting on 24 September 1965, 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 1965, the First Committee decided to consider the item "Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa" as the third item on its agenda (A/C.1/900). At its 1381st meeting, on 23 November, at the request of the sponsors of the item, the Committee decided to discuss the item after the fourth item on its agenda, "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests".

4. At the 1337th meeting, on 26 November, a draft resolution was submitted by Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (A/C.1/L.346). The draft resolution was subsequently co-sponsored by Burundi, Chad, Gabon, Libya, Malawi, Mali and Tunisia. By the draft resolution the General Assembly would: (1) reaffirm its resolution 1652 (XVI) in which it called upon all States to respect the continent of Africa as a nuclear-free zone; (2) endorse the declaration of the Heads of States or Government of African countries on the denuclearization of Africa; (3) call upon all States to respect and abide by the aforementioned declaration; (4) call upon all States to refrain from the use, or the threat of use, of nuclear weapons on the African continent; (5) call upon all States to refrain from testing, manufacturing, acquiring, using or deploying nuclear weapons in the continent of Africa or taking any action which would compel African States to take similar action; (6) urge those States possessing nuclear weapons and capability not to transfer nuclear weapons, scientific data or technological assistance to the national control of any State which may be used to assist such States in the manufacture or use of nuclear weapons in Africa; (7) express the hope that the African States will initiate studies as they deem appropriate with a view to implementing the denuclearization of Africa, and will take the necessary measures through the Organization of African Unity to achieve this end; (8) urge the African States to keep the United Nations informed of any further developments in this regard; and (9) request the Secretary-General to extend to the Organization of African Unity such facilities and assistance as may be requested in order to achieve the aims of this resolution.
5. At the 1390th meeting, on 30 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.346/Rev.1) modifying operative paragraphs 1 and 6. In paragraph 1 of the revised draft, the General Assembly would reaffirm its call upon all States to respect the continent of Africa as a nuclear-free zone. In operative paragraph 6, the phrase "either directly or indirectly, in any form" was inserted, so that the General Assembly would urge those States possessing nuclear weapons and capability not to transfer nuclear weapons, scientific data or technological assistance to the national control of any States, either directly or

indirectly, in any form which might be used to assist such States in the manufacture or use of nuclear weapons in Africa.

6. At the 1391st meeting, on 1 December, the sponsors accepted a suggestion by the representative of Mexico to delete the word "acquiring" after the word "manufacturing" in operative paragraph 5 and to add the phrase "acquiring such weapons" after the words "of Africa" in the same paragraph. The General Assembly would thus call upon all States to refrain from testing, manufacturing, using or deploying nuclear weapons in the continent of Africa, acquiring such weapons or taking any action which would compel African States to take similar action (A/C.1/L.346/Rev.2).

7. At the same meeting, Portugal requested a separate vote on operative paragraphs 2, 7 and 9 of the draft resolution but, after objections were raised, did not press the request.

8. At its 1392nd meeting, on 1 December, the First Committee adopted the twenty-eight-Power revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.346/Rev.2) by a roll-call vote of 105 to none, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, 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, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

The representative of Dahomey stated after the vote that had he been present at the time of the voting he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa

The General Assembly,

Believing in the vital necessity of saving contemporary and future generations from the scourge of a nuclear war,

Recalling its resolution 1652 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, which called upon all Member States to refrain from testing, storing or transporting nuclear weapons in Africa and to consider and respect the continent as a denuclearized zone,

Recalling its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Observing that proposals for the establishment of denuclearized zones in various other areas of the world have also met with general approval,

Convinced that the denuclearization of various areas of the world would help to achieve the desired goal of prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that the Heads of African States and Government, at the first regular session of the Organization of African Unity, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964, issued a solemn declaration on the denuclearization of Africa in which they announced their readiness to undertake, in an international treaty to be concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, not to manufacture or acquire control of nuclear weapons,

Noting that this declaration on the denuclearization of Africa was endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries in the declaration issued at the close of their second Conference, at Cairo, on 10 October 1964,

Recognizing that the denuclearization of Africa would be a practical step towards the prevention of the further spread of nuclear weapons in the world and towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament and of the objectives of the United Nations,

1. Reaffirms its call upon all States to respect the continent of Africa as a nuclear-free zone;
2. Endorses the declaration of the Heads of State and Government of African countries on the denuclearization of Africa;
3. Calls upon all States to respect and abide by the aforementioned declaration;
4. Calls upon all States to refrain from the use, or the threat of use, of nuclear weapons on the African continent;
5. Calls upon all States to refrain from testing, manufacturing, using or deploying nuclear weapons on the continent of Africa, and from acquiring such weapons or taking any action which would compel African States to take similar action;
6. Urges those States possessing nuclear weapons and capability not to transfer nuclear weapons, scientific data or technological assistance to the national control of any State, either directly or indirectly, in any form which may be used to assist such States in the manufacture or use of nuclear weapons in Africa;
7. Expresses the hope that the African States will initiate studies, as they deem appropriate, with a view to implementing the denuclearization of Africa, and take the necessary measures through the Organization of African Unity to achieve this end;
8. Urges the African States to keep the United Nations informed of any further developments in this regard;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to extend to the Organization of African Unity such facilities and assistance as may be requested in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution.
