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Agenda item 91

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty” was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution [67/26](#) of 3 December 2012.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2013, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 107. From 7 to 11 and on 14 and 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items and had an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see [A/C.1/68/PV.3-9](#)). The Committee also held 12 meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 30 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament, and with independent experts (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-21](#)). At the 10th to 25th meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 31 October, and on 1, 4 and 5 November, draft resolutions were introduced and considered (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-25](#)). The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 22nd to 25th meetings, on 31 October, and on 1, 4 and 5 November (see [A/C.1/68/PV.22-25](#)).
4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.



II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.46

5. At the 13th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty” ([A/C.1/68/L.46](#)). Subsequently, Australia, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.46](#) without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

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

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [51/53](#) of 10 December 1996 and [56/17](#) of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,² in which it was emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,³ in which the Council affirmed that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ on 15 July 2009;
2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;
3. *Welcomes* the convening of the first Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), in Addis Ababa on 4 November 2010, and of the second Conference of States Parties, also in Addis Ababa, on 12 and 13 November 2012;
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty¹ that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;
5. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

¹ A/50/426, annex.

² A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

³ S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

6. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁴ that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the model protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty”.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.