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Agenda item 101

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin **Ngundze** (South Africa)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

“Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission”

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions [71/81](#) and [71/82](#) of 5 December 2016.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, 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 1st meeting, on 28 September 2017, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 52 (b) and 90 to 106. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 and 10 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and the presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 14 meetings (10th to 23rd), from 11 to 13, from 16 to 18, on 20 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those



meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 24th to 28th meetings, on 27, 30 and 31 October and on 1 and 2 November.¹

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/72/27](#));
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2017 ([A/72/42](#));
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters ([A/72/185](#));
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([A/72/154](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.14](#)

5. On 9 October, the representative of the Spain submitted a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” ([A/C.1/72/L.14](#)).

6. At the 27th meeting, on 1 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.14](#) without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.25](#)

8. On 11 October, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, submitted a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission” ([A/C.1/72/L.25](#)).

9. At its 27th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.25](#) without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

¹ For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/72/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.26](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.27](#) and [A/C.1/72/PV.28](#).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,¹

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support and concern for the endeavours of the Conference and as calls for the Conference to immediately commence negotiations to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2017 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, including negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/81](#) of 5 December 2016, or in agreeing on and implementing a programme of work,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2017 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made at the 2017 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, including the informal discussions held pursuant to the decision adopted on 17 February 2017,² and noting the discussions on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/72/27).*

² *Ibid.*, para. 15.

Recognizing the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2018 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2017 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock of two decades by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2018 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,³ as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish the Working Group on the Way Ahead with a mandate to take stock of the progress on all agenda items of the Conference, identify issues for substantive work under the agenda, identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate and consider steps for the way ahead,² and appreciates the efforts of the Chair and the facilitators of the Working Group;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

6. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2018 session;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2018 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on its work;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

Draft resolution II Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,¹

Recalling its resolutions [47/54](#) A of 9 December 1992, [47/54](#) G of 8 April 1993, [48/77](#) A of 16 December 1993, [49/77](#) A of 15 December 1994, [50/72](#) D of 12 December 1995, [51/47](#) B of 10 December 1996, [52/40](#) B of 9 December 1997, [53/79](#) A of 4 December 1998, [54/56](#) A of 1 December 1999, [55/35](#) C of 20 November 2000, [56/26](#) A of 29 November 2001, [57/95](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/67](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/105](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/91](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/98](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/54](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/83](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/65](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/86](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/60](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/71](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/63](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/77](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/68](#) of 7 December 2015 and [71/82](#) of 5 December 2016,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution [45/62](#) B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,² Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution [61/98](#), which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;¹
2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the item entitled “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons”, and endorses the consensus text adopted thereon;¹
3. *Notes with regret* that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”;

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/72/42).*

² Resolution [44/119](#) C, annex.

³ Resolution [S-10/2](#).

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³ and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;²

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its substantive session of 2018:

(a) [To be determined];

(b) [To be determined];

7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2018, namely from 2 to 20 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2017 session,⁴ together with all the official records of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2018 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2018 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/72/27)*.