



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 102

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: Ms. Sanna **Orava** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session 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”

and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2021, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in three phases. The first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 92 to 107, the second phase would be dedicated to thematic discussions and the third phase would be action on all draft proposals. The Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, on the basis of the conference room paper before it,¹ on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for

¹ A/C.1/76/CRP.2, available at www.un.org/en/ga/first/76/documentation76.shtml.



Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament.

3. At its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 4 to 7 and on 11 and 12 October, the Committee held a general debate. On 8, 15 and 21 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, independent experts, and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee also held 5 meetings (8th to 12th), on 13, 14 and 18 October, for thematic discussions. 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 13th to 18th meetings, on 27 October, from 1 to 3 and on 5 November.²

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

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/76/27](#));
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters ([A/76/183](#));
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([A/76/175](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/76/L.48](#)

5. On 13 October, the delegation of Chile submitted a draft resolution entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” ([A/C.1/76/L.48](#)).

6. At its 17th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/76/L.48](#) without a vote (see para. 9).

B. Draft decision [A/C.1/76/L.33](#)

7. On 12 October, the delegation of Australia submitted a draft decision entitled “Disarmament Commission” ([A/C.1/76/L.33](#)).

8. At its 17th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.1/76/L.33](#) without a vote (see para. 10).

² For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/76/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/76/PV.17](#) and [A/C.1/76/PV.18](#), as well as [A/C.1/76/INF/5](#).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

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

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,¹

Recalling its resolution 75/83 of 7 December 2020,

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 addresses of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, and referring to their various expressions of support for and concern about the endeavours of the Conference and calls for the Conference to commence negotiations without delay 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 emphasizing the importance of effective multilateralism in the context of the changing international climate,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2021 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 by means of negotiations or agree to a programme of work,

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

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to implementing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Underlining the need for continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as among the successive Presidents of the Conference,

Noting with appreciation the contributions made at the 2021 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda,

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

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

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 2021 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/76/27).

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 2022 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,² as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Encourages* the current President and the incoming President of the Conference on Disarmament 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;

5. *Requests* the current President and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the States members of the Conference in the effort to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2022 session;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2022 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *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;

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

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh 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”.

² Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/64/27)*, para. 18.

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

Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly, recalling its decisions 75/519 A of 7 December 2020 and 75/519 B of 25 March 2021, decides:

(a) That the Disarmament Commission will hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2022, namely from 4 to 22 April, and submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

(b) That the Disarmament Commission will hold its organizational session at the beginning of 2022, before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters;

(c) To include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh 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".
