

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1505th  
MEETING**

Tuesday, 24 October 1967,  
at 10.30 a.m.

**NEW YORK**

CONTENTS

Page

*Agenda item 91:*

*Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons  
in Latin America (continued)*

*General debate (continued) . . . . . 1*

*Chairman: Mr. Ismail FAHMY  
(United Arab Republic).*

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Tchernouch-  
tochenko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-  
Chairman, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 91

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin  
America (continued) (A/6663, A/6676 and Add.1-4;  
A/C.1/946)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. CORREA DO LAGO (Brazil): Brazil is honour-  
ed to be one of the twenty-one Latin American countries  
which have requested the inscription on our agenda of  
item 91 entitled: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear  
Weapons in Latin America.

2. In facing the complex problems of disarmament the  
international community has been led to explore all  
possibilities in its quest for security. One of these  
possibilities is the regional approach. This course of  
action has been encouraged by the General Assembly  
in several resolutions concerning the denuclearization  
of Africa and Latin America.

3. It was only natural that Latin America, which has a  
long-standing tradition in regional co-operation, should  
adopt such an approach in dealing with the dangers  
entailed by nuclear armaments

4. During the seventeenth session of this Assembly,  
Brazil, together with its sister Republics of Ecuador,  
Bolivia and Chile, had the opportunity of submitting  
a draft resolution on the military denuclearization of  
Latin America.<sup>1/</sup> We believed that such an initiative  
would contribute towards alleviating the acute tensions  
deriving from the crisis of October 1962. Furthermore,  
we were convinced that the objective of setting up a  
nuclear-free zone in Latin America was worthy of con-  
tinued endeavours.<sup>2/</sup> It was therefore with gratifi-  
cation that in April 1963 we signed a declaration in

which the co-sponsors of the 1962 draft resolution, in  
association with Mexico, unequivocally committed  
themselves to the ideal of banning nuclear armaments  
from Latin America.

5. The conclusion last February in Mexico City of the  
Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin  
America [A/C.1/946] is the successful outcome of long  
and arduous efforts of a pioneering nature and we are  
proud to have contributed to that end.

6. For almost four years, in successive negotiating  
sessions, the Latin American countries patiently set  
the stage for the creation of the first nuclear-free  
zone in an inhabited part of our planet. Even in a  
harmonious group of States linked by fundamentally  
common interests the task was difficult and presented  
many complex features. The Treaty is therefore an  
achievement of great significance.

7. Throughout their negotiations the Latin American  
States, aware of their responsibilities as Members of  
the United Nations, never lost sight of the fact that  
their precedent-setting regional treaty should con-  
stitute a useful contribution towards general and  
complete disarmament under effective international  
control.

8. The Government of Brazil sees in the Treaty of  
Mexico an instrument fully in line with the deep-  
rooted peaceful traditions of the Brazilian people and  
one which provides at the same time an adequate  
framework for our relentless efforts to overcome the  
conditions that have prevented the acceleration of our  
national development. On the one hand, the Treaty  
effectively bans nuclear weapons in Latin America, not  
only because it binds all its signatories not to seek to  
acquire them but also because it envisages systems of  
control and verification capable of detecting any  
attempt to violate its provisions. However, the objec-  
tive of freeing the area from nuclear armaments is  
gained without hindering research, technological de-  
velopment and the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy  
in all its forms, an essential condition for the scientific  
and economic advancement of the contracting parties.  
Indeed, as it stands, the Treaty gives emphasis to the  
need for the Latin American countries to explore to  
the best of their ability the wide horizons that nuclear  
technology may open to their peaceful development.

9. We hope that the nuclear-weapon Powers will soon  
indicate their willingness to give formal guarantees  
that they will respect the denuclearized status of Latin  
America. We hope also that the governments respon-  
sible for territories that lie within the geographic  
area of the Treaty will be able in the near future  
to commit themselves, in what pertains to those  
territories, to respect the applicable provisions of the  
Treaty.

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session,  
Annexes, agenda item 90, documents A/C.1/L.312 and Add.1 and Rev.  
1/Add.1 and Rev.2.

<sup>2/</sup> Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 74, document  
A/5414/Rev.1, annex.

10. Our general debate on this item was opened by the distinguished representative of Mexico. It was fitting that it should be so, since Mr. García Robles presided over the Commission entrusted with the task of drafting the Treaty. On this occasion my delegation takes pleasure in expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Mexico, the hospitable host country throughout the various working sessions of the Preparatory Commission, and to Mr. García Robles, whose important statement we followed with great attention, for his very able chairmanship of that Commission.

*Mr. Fahmy (United Arab Republic) took the Chair.*

11. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his willingness to support our efforts at all stages of our work. Finally, our thanks go to the

International Atomic Energy Agency for its technical counsel whenever expert advice was sought.

12. We are fully aware that the conclusion of the Treaty of Mexico constitutes an important landmark in the efforts of mankind to secure peace. We take special pride in being a party to an instrument which aims at protecting Latin America from the scourge of nuclear warfare and from the squandering of resources deriving from the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. We take equal pride in being a signatory to a treaty which assures the generations to come of free access to peaceful nuclear technology in all its multiple and vastly promising manifestations, many of which we can only dimly envisage at this point in history.

*The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.*