

gress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

32/83. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/73 of 10 December 1976 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures which can contribute most effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will strengthen the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the recent declarations issued at the highest level by Governments of South Asian States reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Recalling that in the above-mentioned resolutions the General Assembly called upon the States of the South Asian region and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as might be interested to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective,

Further recalling that, in its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) and 31/73, it requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the consultations mentioned therein and to render such assistance as might be required to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

1. *Reaffirms* its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. *Urges once again* the States of South Asia and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective;

3. *Calls upon* those nuclear-weapon States which have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be required to promote the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to

disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978, and at its thirty-third regular session;

5. *Decides* to consider this item at its special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-third regular session.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

32/84. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3479 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 and 31/74 of 10 December 1976, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to work out an agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recognizing that modern science and technology have reached a level where a serious danger arises of the development of new, still more destructive types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Conscious that the development and manufacture of such weapons are fraught with the most serious consequences for the peace and security of nations,

Convinced of the importance of concluding an agreement or agreements to prevent the use of scientific and technological progress for the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Noting the negotiations now under way between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the question of the prohibition of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction and in this context on the prohibition of radiological weapons,

Taking note of the discussion at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of the question of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking into account the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament with regard to this question,¹⁷

1. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, aimed at working out the text of an agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, and, when necessary, specific agreements on this subject;

2. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-third session;

¹⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/32/27)*, vol. I, paras. 207-234.

3. *Urges* all States to refrain from any action which would impede international talks aimed at working out an agreement or agreements to prevent the use of scientific and technological progress for the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament".

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

B

The General Assembly,

Guided by the interests of strengthening international peace and security and desiring to promote confidence among nations and the further improvement of the international situation,

Restating its conviction that scientific discovery should be used for the benefit of mankind,

Recognizing that new weapons might be evolved on the basis of scientific principles other than those used in the weapons named in the 1948 definition of weapons of mass destruction,¹⁸

Bearing in mind that recent years have seen the conclusion of a number of important agreements on the limitation of the arms race and disarmament, including some relating to the prohibition and limitation of identified weapons of mass destruction, and that negotiations for further agreements are continuing,

Noting the discussion at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the question of the prohibition of the development of new weapons of mass destruction,

1. *Urges* States to refrain from developing new weapons of mass destruction based on new scientific principles;

2. *Calls upon* States to apply scientific discovery for the benefit of mankind;

3. *Reaffirms* the definition of weapons of mass destruction contained in the resolution of the Commission for Conventional Armaments of 12 August 1948,¹⁸ which defined weapons of mass destruction as atomic explosive weapons, radioactive material weapons, lethal chemical and biological weapons and any weapons developed in the future which might have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of the atomic bomb or other weapons mentioned above;

4. *Welcomes* the active continuation of negotiations relating to the prohibition and limitation of identified weapons of mass destruction;

5. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while taking into account its existing priorities, to keep under review the question of the development of new weapons of mass destruction based

on new scientific principles and to consider the desirability of formulating agreements on the prohibition of any specific new weapons which may be identified;

6. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on its review to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

32/85. Reduction of military budgets

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in its resolution 31/87 of 14 December 1976, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of an intergovernmental group of budgetary experts appointed by him, a report containing an analysis of the comments provided by States in the light of the suggestions set forth in the 1976 report of the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets,¹⁹

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General²⁰ submitted to the General Assembly in response to the aforementioned resolution,

Recognizing the value of the availability of a satisfactory instrument for standardized reporting on the military expenditures of Member States, particularly of the States permanent members of the Security Council as well as any other State with comparable military expenditures,

Recognizing that the work set in motion by the General Assembly on the reduction of military budgets has reached a decisive stage and that successive reports of groups of experts have moved the whole exercise to a position where practical steps for testing and refining the proposed reporting instrument could now be taken,

Noting that the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978, will provide an opportunity to consider the disarmament problem in a broad perspective,

Noting further that at the special session several matters related to the reduction of military expenditures will be considered,

Reaffirming its conviction that part of the resources thus released should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly that of the developing countries,

Reaffirming also its conviction of the urgent necessity that the States permanent members of the Security Council, as well as any other State with comparable military expenditures, carry out reductions in their military budgets,

Conscious that, without an accompanying process of co-operation among such States, it will not be possible to accomplish the ultimate objectives,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and to the Group of Budgetary Experts which assisted in the preparation of the report;²⁰

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain those States which would be prepared to participate in a pilot test of the reporting instrument and to report

¹⁸ See S/C.3/32/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1.

¹⁹ A/31/222/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.I.6).

²⁰ A/32/194 and Add.1.