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Forty-fifth session  
Agenda item 66

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/45/788)]

45/65. Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987 and 43/81 B of 7 December 1988,

Underlining the important role that the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has to play in the sphere of disarmament,

Recalling also that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that, consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament,

Noting that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally recognised,

Stressing that the issue of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recognising that the United Nations, in accordance with its role and responsibilities established under the Charter, can make a significant contribution in the field of verification, in particular of multilateral agreements,

Reiterating its view that:

(a) Disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate and effective measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and to ensure that they are being observed by all parties;

(b) The form and modalities of the verification to be provided for in any specific agreement depend upon and should be determined by the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement;

(c) Agreements should provide for the participation of parties directly or through the United Nations system in the verification process;

(d) Where appropriate, a combination of several methods of verification as well as other compliance procedures should be employed,

Recalling that:

(a) In the context of international disarmament negotiations, the problem of verification should be further examined and adequate methods and procedures in this field should be considered;

(b) Every effort should be made to develop appropriate methods and procedures that are non-discriminatory and that do not interfere unduly with the internal affairs of States parties or other States or jeopardize their economic, technological and social development,

Taking note of all proposals that had been put forward in the field of verification by Member States, 1/ including those by Canada and the Netherlands, France and the countries of the Six-Nation Initiative, 2/

Affirming its support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission, 3/

Noting that recent developments in international relations have underscored the importance of effective verification of existing and future arms limitation and disarmament agreements,

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1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. III.2, of the quoted text).

2/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), and the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex).

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

Recalling that by resolution 43/81 B it requested the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study of the role of the United Nations in the field of verification that would:

(a) Identify and review existing activities of the United Nations in the field of verification of arms limitation and disarmament;

(b) Assess the need for improvements in existing activities as well as explore and identify possible additional activities, taking into account organizational, technical, operational, legal and financial aspects;

(c) Provide specific recommendations for future action by the United Nations in this context;

and to submit a comprehensive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General; 4/
2. Notes that the report was approved by the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts to Undertake a Study on the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification;
3. Commends the report to the attention of Member States;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to give the report the widest possible circulation;
5. Also requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action within available resources on the recommendations of the Group;
6. Encourages Member States to give active consideration to the recommendations contained in the concluding chapter of the report and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where appropriate;
7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on actions taken by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat to implement these recommendations;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

54th plenary meeting  
4 December 1990

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4/ A/45/372 and Corr.1.