

**Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons
and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed
and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof**

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CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT
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**FINAL REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON
THE PROHIBITION OF THE EMPLACEMENT OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
ON THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR AND IN THE
SUBSOIL THEREOF */**

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

1. Article VII of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, which entered into force on 18 May 1972, provides that:

"Five years after the entry into force of this Treaty, a Conference of Parties to the Treaty shall be held at Geneva, Switzerland, in order to review the operation of this Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized. Such review shall take into account any relevant technological developments. The review conference shall determine, in accordance with the views of a majority of those Parties attending, whether and when an additional review conference shall be convened."

2. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 3484 (E) XXX. In the Preamble, the General Assembly recalled resolution 2660 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, in which it had commended the Treaty, noted its article VII, and expressed the expectation that the review conference would take place soon after 18 May 1977, the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty. The operative part of resolution 3484 (E) XXX reads as follows:

"1. Notes that after appropriate consultation a preparatory committee of the Parties to the Treaty is to be arranged;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the review conference and its preparation;

"3. Recalls its expressed hope for the widest possible adherence to the Treaty."

*/ Previously issued as document SBT/P.C.I/1 dated 17 February 1977. Former Annex I (Draft Rules of Procedure) and Annex II (Draft Agenda) have been reproduced as separate documents SBT/CONF/2 (Draft Rules of Procedure) and SBT/CONF/1 (Provisional Agenda).

3. The informal consultations took place in New York during November and December 1976. During these consultations general agreement was reached on several basic matters such as time and venue for meetings of the Preparatory Committee and time for the Review Conference itself, conference services and other assistance by the Secretariat, participation in the Preparatory Committee, and means of notification to States Parties of the session of the Preparatory Committee.

4. The Preparatory Committee held its session at Geneva from 7-11 February 1977. The following States Parties to the Treaty participated in the Preparatory Committee: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

5. At its first meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected Ambassador Eugeniusz Wyzner of Poland as its chairman, and Ambassador Nicolo di Bernardo of Italy and Mr. Jonas Foli of Ghana as vice-chairmen. The Committee later authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference is convened.

6. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented at the Preparatory Committee by Mr. Rolf Björnerstedt, Assistant Secretary-General. Ms. Amada Segarra served as Secretary of the Committee.

7. The Committee decided at its first meeting to take its decisions by consensus, and to use English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages. Press Releases were issued at the opening and closing of the session.

8. In the course of its meetings, the Committee covered the following agenda relating to the organization and work of the Conference:

- (a) Draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference
- (b) Composition of the Bureau of the Conference
- (c) Participation in the Conference
- (d) Financing arrangements for the Conference
- (e) Languages, documentation, records, etc., pertaining to the Conference
- (f) Agenda and duration of the Conference
- (g) Programme and procedure for the Review of the Treaty
- (h) Final documents of the Conference.

II. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE

9. The Committee had before it the Rules of Procedure of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which it used as a basis for the development of the draft rules of procedure. During its meetings, the Committee reviewed and revised those rules as it deemed necessary in the light of the particular requirements for the Review Conference of the Treaty under consideration. The Committee approved draft rules of procedure for the Conference which are attached as Annex I.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

10. The Committee decided that the General Committee would be composed of the President, 16 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

11. The Committee further decided that the geographical distribution of the abovementioned posts would be as follows: Africa 4; Asia 4; Latin America 1; Western Europe and Others 6 (including the Depositary Governments); Eastern Europe 4 (including the Depositary Government).

IV. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

12. The Committee decided that the Conference would be open to States Parties to the Treaty and, under certain stipulated conditions, to other States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and International Atomic Energy Agency, regional inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations in accordance with its draft rule of procedure 43, which is contained in Annex I.

13. The Committee also decided that invitations to States which, in accordance with the decision on participation, were entitled to participate in the Conference, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, should be issued by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. It was also decided that, for practical reasons, the Governments of States intending to participate in the Conference should be requested to so notify the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference one month before its commencement, that is, by 20 May 1977.

V. FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

14. The Committee decided that the costs of the Review Conference, including the session of the Preparatory Committee, will be met by the States Parties to the Treaty participating in the Review Conference in accordance with the United Nations assessment scale pro-rated to take into account differences between the United Nations membership and the number of States Parties participating in the Conference. States which have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty and which accept the invitation to take part in the Review Conference as provided by Rule 43 will share in the costs to the extent of their respective rates of assessment under the United Nations scale. For States Parties or signatories which are not members of the United Nations the share will be determined on the basis of the similarly pro-rated scale in force for determining this share in the activities in which they take part. The financial arrangements are found in draft rule of procedure 12 which is contained in Annex I. The Committee also decided to request the Secretariat to provide final estimates of the costs of the Conference to all States Parties to the Treaty before the Conference is convened.

VI. LANGUAGES, DOCUMENTATION, RECORDS, ETC.

15. The Committee decided that the languages of the Conference would be English, French, Russian and Spanish, as incorporated in draft rules of procedure 37, which is contained in Annex I.

16. The Committee also decided to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare certain information papers for those who may be attending the Conference, as follows:

- A. Summary of the negotiations within the CCD (Article by Article) leading to the Treaty
- B. Compilation of official communications with regard to the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty, which the Secretary-General and the Depositaries may have received
- C. Compilation of papers on technological developments (military as well as peaceful) relevant to the Treaty which Parties may wish to provide, or which are otherwise officially available to the Secretary-General from Governments.

VII. AGENDA AND DURATION

17. During the session, the Bureau of the Committee prepared an outline draft agenda for the Conference as a basis for discussion. After consideration of this draft, the Committee approved the draft agenda for the Review Conference which is attached as Annex II.

18. The Committee decided that the dates of the Conference would be 20 June-1 July 1977.

VIII. PROGRAMME AND PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF THE TREATY

19. The Committee decided to recommend that the Conference review the operation of the Treaty as provided for in its Article VII.

- A. General Debate
- B. Articles I-XI
- C. Preambular paragraphs and purposes of the Treaty.

The Committee also accepted the principle that the procedure as set out above did not prejudice the sequence in which the provisions of the Treaty would be reviewed.

20. In respect of proposals by States Parties to the Treaty to be considered by the Conference, the Committee decided that any substantial proposal should be submitted to the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible, at least one month before the Conference starts. This decision is contained in document SBT/P.C.I/CRD.5/Rev. attached as Annex III.

IX. FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

21. The Committee had an exchange of views on the matter of the final document(s) of the Conference, and decided to include an appropriate item in the draft agenda of the Conference.

X. PRESS AND PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS

22. The Committee approved certain press and publicity arrangements suggested by the Office of Public Information of the United Nations at Geneva. The arrangements suggested are attached as Annex IV.

XI. APPOINTMENT OF A SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

23. Within the context of draft Rule 10, providing for a Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the Committee decided to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee, to nominate an official to act on behalf of the Committee as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Review Conference in accordance with its rules of procedure.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF BACKGROUND PAPER

24. The Committee considered the background paper contained in document SBT/P.C.I/CRD.2, and following comments and suggestions for changes, the Committee decided that it should be distributed to the Parties to the Treaty and its signatories under separate cover.

XIII. ADOPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FINAL REPORT

25. At its last meeting, on 11 February 1977, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report and decided that the report, together with its Annexes, including the summary records of the Preparatory Committee, would be submitted by the Chairman to the Parties to the Treaty and its signatories and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ANNEX III

PROPOSAL BY THE NETHERLANDS

The Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

Conscious of the short time available for discussion during the Review Conference,

Stressing the need for adequate preparation for the Conference,

Recommends to Governments of States Parties to the Treaty, to submit to the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference any substantial proposal to be considered by the Conference if possible at least one month before the Conference starts,

Asks the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference to distribute such proposals immediately to Governments of States Parties to the Treaty.

ANNEX IV

SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS AND PUBLICITY PREPARED
BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (GENEVA)

The coverage of the Conference will be as follows: press releases in English and French of plenary meetings for locally accredited correspondents. Releases will be cabled to Headquarters. The Conference should be preceded by a "curtain raiser" at least a week in advance and followed by a closing "round-up" release. The Information Service will also release to the press all other texts on closed meetings, if needed. The Chairman of the Conference or other officers, would be invited to give a formal press conference. Moreover, television, radio and photo coverage will be provided.

The above standard arrangements do not involve any financial implications whatsoever.