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Forty-third session
Agenda item 54ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE
IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EASTReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/28 of 30 November 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include this item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 51 to 69, 139, 141, and 145. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 17 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 3 and 18 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.26-43).
4. In connection with item 54, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/43/484)1
 - (b) Letter dated 30 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Session

of **Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People**, held at Amman, Jordan' from 3 to 7 **Sha'ban A.H. 1408 (A.D. 21-25 March 1988)** (A/43/273-8/19720)1

(c) Letter dated 6 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué and the report and resolution adopted by the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People, held at Amman, Jordan, from 3 to 7 **Sha'ban A.H. 1408 (21 to 25 March 1988)** (A/43/393-S/19930);

(d) Letter dated 29 September 1968 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/667-S/20212);

(e) Letter dated 21 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/741),

II, CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. On 28 October, **Egypt** submitted a draft resolution entitled "**Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East**" (A/C.1/43/L.11), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986 and 42/28 of 30 November 1987 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

"Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/

"Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and,

1/ Resolution S-1012.

pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the

- establishment of the zone and deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

"Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

"Emphasising also the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

"Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

"Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

"Emphasising the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

"Having examined the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

"1. **Extends its thanks** to the Secretary-General for his report containing the views of parties concerned regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

"2. **Takes note** of the above-mentioned report;

"3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to undertake a study, with the assistance of a small number of consultants, on the practical measures capable of creating the necessary conditions to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, taking into account the circumstances and characteristics of the region, and to submit the study to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

"4. **Also requests** the Secretary-General, in undertaking this study, to seek the views and suggestions of the States of the region with respect to the practical measures called for in paragraph 3 above;

"5. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, "

6. On 9 November, Egypt submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.11/Rev.1), which was introduced by its representative at the 33rd meeting, on 10 November. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes;

(a) Now operative paragraphs 1 to 5 were added and read as follows:

"1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 3/

"2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards

"3. Invites those countries, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with the relevant paragraph of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/ and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council

"4. Further invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

"5. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution; "

3/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex,

4/ Resolution S-1012, para. 63 (d).

(b) Original operative paragraphs 1 and 2 were renumbered as new operative paragraphs 6 and 7;

(c) Original operative paragraphs 3 to 5 were both revised and renumbered as new operative paragraphs 8 to 10, which read as follows:

"8. ~~Requests~~ the Secretary-General to undertake a study on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free ~~zone~~ in the Middle East, taking into account the ~~circumstances~~ and characteristics of the Middle East, as well as views and suggestions of the parties of the region, and to submit this study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth ~~session~~;

"9. ~~Requests~~ parties of the region to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions with respect to the practical measures called for in paragraph 8 above;

"10. ~~Requests~~ the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth ~~session~~";

(d) Original operative paragraph 6 was renumbered as new operative paragraph 11.

7. At the ~~same~~ meeting, ~~Egypt~~ submitted a *corrigendum* (A/C.1/43/L.11/Rev.1/Corr.1), in which the word "practical" was deleted from operative paragraph 9 of the ~~revised~~ draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.11/Rev.1).

8. In this connection, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.76).

9. At its 38th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution without a vote (see pars. 10).

III . RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution;

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region
of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983,

39/54 of 12 December 1984, **40/82** of 12 December 1985, **41/48** of 3 December 1986 and **42/28** of 30 November 1987 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 **(d)**, of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, **5/**

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the **zone** and deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration., as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all **States to** acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing also the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be **made** towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General, **6/**

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle **East** in

5/ Resolution S-10/2.

6/ A/43/404.

accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 1/

2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguarder

3. Invites those countries, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with the relevant paragraph of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 2/ and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

4. Further invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

5. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolutions

6. Extends its thanks to the Secretary-General for his report containing the views of parties concerned regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

7. Takes note of the above-mentioned report!

8. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a study on effective and verifiable measures which would facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, taking into account the circumstances and characteristics of the Middle East, as well as the views and the suggestions of the parties of the region, and to submit this study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

9. Requests parties of the region to submit to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions with respect to the measures called for in paragraph 8 above;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolutions

1/ Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

2/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 63 (d).

11. ~~Decides~~ to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".
