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Agenda item 43

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 36/85

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Luvsangiin ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/85: report of the Committee on Disarmament", was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-seventh session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/85 of 9 December 1981.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 September 1982, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 57, 133 and 136. The general debate on these items and on items 138 and 139, which were allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly at its 24th plenary meeting, on 8 October 1982, took place at the 3rd to 28th meetings from 18 October to 5 November (see A/C.1/37/PV.3-28).
4. In connection with item 43, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/37/37).

(b) Letter dated 22 June 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué and other documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 31 May to 5 June 1982 (A/37/333);

(c) Letter dated 11 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué and other documents of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York from 4 to 9 October 1982 (A/37/540);

(d) Letter dated 25 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting, held at Suva from 14 to 18 October 1982 (A/37/586).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1

5. On 17 November, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and Uruguay submitted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40 entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty". The draft resolution was introduced by Australia at the 38th meeting, on 19 November and read as follows:

"Urgent need for comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

"The General Assembly,

"Convinced of the urgent need for the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty capable of attracting the widest possible international support and adherence,

"Reaffirming its conviction that an end to nuclear-weapon testing by all States in all environments would be a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons, a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations and a measure of the utmost importance in bringing the nuclear arms race to an end,

"Recalling that the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water undertook not to carry out any nuclear-weapon-test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion, in the environments covered by that Treaty, and in that Treaty and in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons expressed their determination to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

"Recalling its previous resolutions on this subject,

"Recognizing the indispensable role of the Committee on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

"Convinced that the Committee on Disarmament should commence negotiations on such a treaty at the earliest possible date,

"Recognizing the importance to such a treaty of the work assigned by the Committee on Disarmament to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on a global network of stations for the exchange of seismological data,

"Stressing the importance of further efforts by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to facilitate the conclusion of such a treaty,

"1. Reiterates its grave concern that, despite the express wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States, nuclear-weapon testing continues unabated;

"2. Reaffirms its conviction that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is a matter of the greatest urgency and highest priority;

"3. Expresses the conviction that such a treaty would constitute a vital element for the success of efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race and the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and to prevent the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries;

"4. Notes that the Committee on Disarmament has established an ad hoc working group to discuss and define, through substantive examination, issues relating to verification and compliance, with a view to making further progress toward a nuclear test ban;

"5. Further notes that the said ad hoc working group has initiated consideration of the issues under its mandate;

"6. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the consideration of these issues and to take the necessary steps to initiate substantive negotiations in order that the draft of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be submitted to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date;

"7. Urges all members of the Committee on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to co-operate with the Committee in fulfilling these tasks;

"8. Also requests the Committee on Disarmament to determine, in the context of its negotiations on such a treaty, the institutional and administrative arrangements necessary for establishing, testing and operating an international seismic monitoring network and an effective verification system;

"9. Calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to report on progress to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session an item entitled 'Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty'."

6. On 26 November, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and Uruguay sponsored a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1), which contained a new sixth preambular paragraph, a new operative paragraph 4 and revised language in operative paragraphs 2 and 5.

7. At its 45th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.40/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 92 to 1, with 34 abstentions (see para. 8).

The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Israel, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the urgent need for the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty capable of attracting the widest possible international support and adherence,

Reaffirming its conviction that an end to nuclear-weapon testing by all States in all environments would be a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons, a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radio-active contamination for the health of present and future generations and a measure of the utmost importance in bringing the nuclear arms race to an end,

Recalling that the parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 2/ undertook not to carry out any nuclear-weapon-test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion, in the environments covered by that Treaty, and in that Treaty and in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 3/ expressed their determination to continue negotiations to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this subject,

Recognizing the indispensable role of the Committee on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Taking into account that part of the report of the Committee on Disarmament concerning consideration of the item entitled "Nuclear test ban" during its 1982 session,

Convinced that the Committee on Disarmament should commence negotiations on such a treaty at the earliest possible date,

Recognizing the importance to such a treaty of the work assigned by the Committee on Disarmament to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964, p. 43.

3/ Resolution 2372 (XXII), annex.

International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on a global network of stations for the exchange of seismological data,

Stressing the importance of further efforts by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to facilitate the conclusion of such a treaty,

1. Reiterates its grave concern that, despite the express wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States, nuclear-weapon testing continues unabated;
2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the greatest urgency and highest priority;
3. Expresses the conviction that such a treaty would constitute a vital element for the success of efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race and the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and to prevent the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries;
4. Notes that the Committee on Disarmament, in the exercise of its responsibilities as the multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, established on 21 April 1982 an Ad Hoc Working Group under item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear test ban", and, considering that discussion of specific issues in the first instance might facilitate progress toward negotiation of a nuclear test ban, requested the Ad Hoc Working Group to:
 - (a) To discuss and define, through substantive examination, issues relating to verification and compliance with a view to making further progress towards a nuclear test ban;
 - (b) To take into account all existing proposals and future initiatives and report to the Committee on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1982 session;
5. Also notes that the Committee on Disarmament agreed that it would thereafter take a decision on subsequent courses of action with a view to fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard;
6. Further notes that the Ad Hoc Working Group has initiated consideration of the issues under its mandate;
7. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to continue the consideration of these issues and to take the necessary steps to initiate substantive negotiations in order that the draft of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be submitted to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date;
8. Urges all members of the Committee on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to co-operate with the Committee in fulfilling these tasks;

9. Also requests the Committee on Disarmament to determine, in the context of its negotiations on such a treaty, the institutional and administrative arrangements necessary for establishing, testing and operating an international seismic monitoring network and an effective verification system;
 10. Calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to report on progress to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;
 11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session an item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".
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