



**REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 41 (A/32/41)

UNITED NATIONS



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New York, 1977

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/189 B of 21 December 1976, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. Decides to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held in New York in May/June 1978;

"2. Further decides to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, composed of fifty-four Member States appointed by the President of the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, with the mandate of examining all relevant questions relating to the special session, including its agenda, and of submitting to the Assembly at its thirty-second session appropriate recommendations thereon;

"3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly not later than 15 April 1977;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States pursuant to paragraph 3 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render it all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

"5. Requests the Preparatory Committee to meet for a short organizational session of not longer than one week, before 31 March 1977, inter alia, to set the dates for its substantive sessions;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled: 'Special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament'."

2. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution, the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, appointed the following countries to be members of the Preparatory Committee: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

3. In connexion with the representation of the countries of the Eastern European Group in the Preparatory Committee, the Chairman of that Group addressed a letter

to the President of the General Assembly, dated 3 February 1977 (A/31/475) expressing disagreement with the allocation of six instead of eight seats to the Eastern European Group and reserving its right to raise the question of allocating additional seats in the Preparatory Committee at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly. Views to that effect and on other aspects of the question of the membership of the Committee were also expressed at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and are reflected in the summary records (A/AC.187/SR.1-20).

4. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale, dated 28 January 1977, to all Member States inviting them to communicate their views on the agenda and all other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly not later than 15 April 1977. Written replies from 58 States were circulated as documents (A/32/60, A/32/62; A/AC.187/2-28, 32-42 and Corr.1, 44-50, 52, 53, 57-59, 61, 63-66 and 83).

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/189 B, the Committee met at United Nations Headquarters in an organizational session from 28 to 30 March, and in substantive sessions from 9 to 20 May and from 31 August to 9 September 1977. During these three sessions the Committee held 20 meetings. The Committee also held seven informal meetings during the period from 22 to 30 August. In addition, members of the Committee held intensive consultations during and in between sessions of the Committee. The 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 28 March, was opened by the Secretary-General, who made a statement (CA/AC.187/62).

6. The Committee elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	H.E. Mr. Carlos Ortiz de Rozas	(Argentina)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	H.E. Mr. Isao Abe	(Japan)
	H.E. Mr. Leslie O. Harriman	(Nigeria)
	H.E. Mr. Ralph L. Harry, C.B.E.	(Australia)
	H.E. Mr. Fereydoon Hoveyda	(Iran)
	H.E. Mr. Henryk Jaroszek	(Poland)
	H.E. Mr. Livingston B. Johnson	(Bahamas)
	H.E. Mr. Jaksa Petrić	(Yugoslavia)
	H.E. Mr. Oscar Vaernø	(Norway)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Saad Alfarargi	(Egypt)

7. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to be governed by the relevant parts of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in taking decisions. Notwithstanding that fact, it had been generally agreed during consultations that every effort should be made to ensure that, in so far as possible, decisions on matters of substance were adopted by consensus. Should efforts to secure a consensus fail, decisions could then be adopted in accordance with the provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed that non-member States of the Committee could participate in plenary meetings without the right to vote. The following countries attended the Committee's meetings: Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Lebanon, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal and Syrian Arab Republic. The representative of the Holy See also attended the meetings.

9. At its 4th meeting, on 9 May, the Committee agreed to a recommendation made by its bureau that representatives of non-governmental organizations could be present at meetings of the Preparatory Committee and that, in order to facilitate

dissemination of information on contributions of non-governmental organizations, the Secretariat would provide lists, for general circulation, of the communications received from the organizations and institutions known to be conducting research in the field of disarmament. The lists would indicate where the communications and any annexed documentation would be available to delegations. 1/

10. At its sixth meeting, on 10 May, the Committee decided that specialized agencies concerned with disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be invited to take part in the work of the Committee with observer status. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have attended the meetings of the Committee.

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 March, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare background papers on the following subjects:

(a) Disarmament resolutions adopted by the General Assembly from 1946 to 1976 (A/AC.187/29 and Corr. 1);

(b) Existing principles and proposals for the conduct of disarmament negotiations (A/AC.187/30 and Corr. 1);

(c) Existing structures and machinery for disarmament negotiations (A/AC.187/31).

12. At its 6th meeting, on 11 May, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a document classifying, under various headings, the replies received from Governments pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 31/189 B. At its 7th meeting, on 12 May, the Committee approved a list of headings to be used by the Secretariat in fulfilling the task assigned to it (A/AC.187/51 and Corr. 1 and 2 and Add.1). At the same meeting, the Committee requested that the opinions expressed by delegations during its general debate be included in a subsequent document (A/AC.187/76).

13. At its 14th meeting, on 20 May, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare the following working papers:

(a) A brief synopsis of negotiations on disarmament and arms limitation, including their results, carried out since 1945 within the framework of the United Nations, on a regional basis or bilaterally, with an indication, when appropriate, of the procedures followed in each case to keep the Organization informed (A/AC.187/67);

(b) A comparative study of the scope originally proposed or aimed at in draft multilateral disarmament treaties of a universal character concluded under United Nations auspices and the scope finally fixed in those treaties, including the contemplated measures for expanding that scope (A/AC.187/68);

(c) A comprehensive study of official proposals or declarations made and decisions taken by the General Assembly on the procedure of unilateral or

1/ Lists of communications received from non-governmental organizations and research institutions are contained in documents A/AC.187/INF.2-4.

negotiated moratoria as a provisional measure for the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, as well as their application by any State (A/AC.187/69);

(d) A synthesis of the arguments adduced for and against each of the four proposals for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that have been included in the General Assembly's agenda (Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific) and for and against the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, including a subject index and a country index (A/AC.187/70);

(e) A comparative study of the origin, development and present status of various alternatives proposed for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (A/AC.187/71);

(f) An analytical summary of United Nations studies describing the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, bacteriological (biological) weapons and napalm and other incendiary weapons, as well as those dealing with the reduction of military budgets, the economic and social consequences of the arms race and disarmament and with the relationship between development and disarmament (A/AC.187/72);

(g) A comparative study of global military expenditures and development assistance since 1945 as stated in official and unofficial sources (A/AC.187/73);

(h) A descriptive report on the human and material resources available to the United Nations Secretariat for its work on disarmament and on the organization of that work (A/AC.187/74);

(i) A list of disarmament and related proposals officially submitted to the United Nations describing the proposal, the date and country of submission and the follow-up (A/AC.187/75).

14. The proceedings of the meetings, including the views expressed by delegations, are contained in the summary records (A/AC.187/SR.1 to 20).

III. DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES

15. In the course of the Committee's work, the following documents dealing with substantive questions were submitted:

(a) Working paper entitled "Some preliminary ideas concerning preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", submitted by Sri Lanka on behalf of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries (A/AC.187/55);

(b) Working paper entitled "Some fundamental principles and norms possible for inclusion in the 'Declaration on Disarmament' envisaged in the draft agenda of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, approved by the Preparatory Committee on 18 May 1977", submitted by Mexico (A/AC.187/56);

(c) Working paper containing elements to be included in the declaration on disarmament, submitted by Mauritius (A/AC.187/60, annex);

(d) Working paper entitled "Declaration on disarmament", submitted by Romania (A/AC.187/77);

(e) Working paper entitled "Programme of measures and action", submitted by Romania (A/AC.187/78);

(f) Working paper entitled "Negotiating machinery for disarmament problems", submitted by Romania (A/AC.187/79);

(g) Working paper entitled "Disarmament and development: proposal for a United Nations study", submitted by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (A/AC.187/80);

(h) Working paper entitled "Basic provisions of the declaration on disarmament", submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.187/81);

(i) Working paper entitled "Basic provisions of the programme of action on disarmament", submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.187/82).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

16. At its 15th to 18th meetings, the Committee decided by consensus to submit the recommendations set forth in paragraphs 17 to 25 below to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session with regard to the organization of the work of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the future work of the Preparatory Committee.

A. Organization of the work of the special session

1. Provisional agenda

17. The Committee recommends the following provisional agenda for the special session:

1. Opening of the session in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the eighth special session of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
5. Organization of the session.
6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. General debate.
9. Review and appraisal of the present international situation in the light of the pressing need to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament, the continuation of the arms race and the close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development.
10. Adoption of a declaration on disarmament.
11. Adoption of a programme of action on disarmament.
12. Review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament and of the

international machinery for negotiations on disarmament, including, in particular, the question of convening a world disarmament conference.

18. In connexion with the provisional agenda, the Preparatory Committee recommends that the General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, should request the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to submit to it at its special session a special report on the state of the various questions under consideration by the Conference. The Preparatory Committee also recommends that the General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, should request the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to submit a special report to the special session on the state of its work and deliberations. These special reports would be submitted to the special session with the report of the Preparatory Committee, as part of the documentation prepared for the special session.

2. Date and duration

19. The special session should be held between 23 May and 28 June 1978 in New York in the General Assembly Hall.

20. In light of the programme of alterations scheduled to take place at the Headquarters building in New York in 1978 and 1979, as decided by the General Assembly in resolution 31/195, the Committee recommends that, at its thirty-second session, the Assembly should take a decision, by 15 October 1977, to reverse the phases of the construction work at Headquarters and thereby make the General Assembly Hall available for the special session in 1978.

3. President

21. The Committee considers that, following the practice of previous special sessions, the General Assembly may wish to elect the President of the thirty-second session as the President of the special session.

4. Vice-Presidents

22. Vice-Presidents of the special session should be the same as at the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that regional groups may make substitutions of Vice-Presidents allocated to each group.

5. Main Committees

23. The special session should establish a committee of the whole, with as many open-ended groups or subsidiary organs as may be necessary. The Chairman of the committee of the whole should be elected by the Assembly at its special session.

6. Credentials Committee

24. The Credentials Committee of the special session should be the same as that of the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

7. General Committee

25. The General Committee of the special session should consist of the President of the special session of the General Assembly, the 17 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that they may be substituted by members of their delegations or members of delegations of States belonging to the same regional group, the Chairman of the committee of the whole of the special session and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

8. Rules of procedure

26. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply in the special session without amendments, on the understanding that, regarding the adoption of decisions by the Assembly at the special session, every effort should be made to ensure that, in so far as possible, decisions on matters of substance will be adopted by consensus.

9. Level of representation

27. It would be desirable that Member States be represented at the special session at the highest possible level.

10. Public information activities

28. The Committee recommends adoption of the programme of public information activities submitted by the Secretariat (A/AC.187/83), on the understanding that, in so far as possible, such activities should be carried out within the regular budget of the Office of Public Information.

11. Role of non-governmental organizations

29. The Committee recommends that non-governmental organizations concerned with disarmament should be accorded the same facilities at the special session as those which they have received at the Preparatory Committee.

B. Organization of the future work of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

30. The Preparatory Committee should hold two additional sessions in 1978 before the convening of the special session: one from 24 January to 24 February and the other from 10 to 21 April 1978.

31. In connexion with the fourth session of the Committee, to be held between 24 January and 24 February 1978, it was decided that the Committee will become a working group open to those members of the Committee wishing to participate in it,

leaving open the possibility of establishing one or more subgroups, as necessary. A decision as to whether the working group will meet formally or informally will be taken by the working group itself.

C. Other recommendations

32. In connexion with the proposal submitted by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden contained in the working paper entitled "Disarmament and development: proposal for a United Nations study" (A/AC.1/187/80), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should initiate the proposed study, the terms of reference and other aspects of the study to be determined by the Assembly itself, and further recommends that decisions in that respect should be taken at the special session.

V. PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

33. The Committee reached consensus, in principle, that, without excluding other possibilities, the main elements of the principal document or documents of the special session should be:

- (a) Introduction or preamble;
- (b) Declaration on disarmament;
- (c) Programme of action;
- (d) Machinery for disarmament negotiations.

It was noted that there was a trend in the Committee in favour of one final document, but it was agreed that this question should be decided at a later stage.

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