

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/40/29)



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 39/149 of 17 December 1984, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 1/ and the exchange of views in the Committee, emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971; took note of the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee during 1984; requested the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean, in 1985, in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo thereafter at the earliest date in the first half of 1986 to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country; decided that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that might ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference; requested the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General, at the appropriate time, on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference; renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requested the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three further preparatory sessions in 1985 of a duration of two weeks each, with the possibility of holding a fourth session to be considered as required; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving that matter at the earliest possible date; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a full report on the implementation of the resolution; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

2. Pursuant to resolution 39/149, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions, from 28 January to 8 February (A/AC.159/SR.263-272), from 25 March to 4 April (A/AC.159/SR.273-279) and from 1 to 12 July (A/AC.159/SR.280-290), and two additional meetings, on 19 November and 5 December (A/AC.159/SR.291-292), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 30 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1985.

3. The Committee is composed of the following 48 Member States:

Australia	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
China	Pakistan
Democratic Yemen	Panama
Djibouti	Poland
Egypt	Romania
Ethiopia	Seychelles
France	Singapore
German Democratic Republic	Somalia
Germany, Federal Republic of	Sri Lanka
Greece	Sudan
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Italy	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	United States of America
Liberia	Yemen
Madagascar	Yugoslavia
Malaysia	Zambia
Maldives	
Mauritius	

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B of 11 December 1979, Sweden continued to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Nissanka Wijewardane (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. John Okely (Australia)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Samsi Abdulah (Indonesia) and his predecessor,
Mr. Izhar Ibrahim (Indonesia)
Mr. Manuel dos Santos (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. André Tahindro (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1985 (A/AC.159/L.65), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 263rd meeting, on 28 January 1985:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of a Vice-Chairman.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/149, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and other relevant paragraphs.
6. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, in accordance with resolution 39/149.
7. Other matters.

6. At the 266th meeting, on 31 January, the Chairman presented the following text concerning the organization of work, which was subsequently endorsed by the Committee:

"It has been decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, in recognition of its preparatory function, will meet in formal and informal sessions as it considers appropriate to complete the organizational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In doing so, equal time will be given both to organizational and substantive work, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.

"For consideration of substantive issues, the Committee will take into account, inter alia, the political and security climate in the region and characteristics of the zone as given in documents placed before the Committee or discussed during the sessions. The Committee will also give consideration to all other documents before the Committee.

"Time will be given as required by the Committee for an exchange of views taking into account also paragraph 6 of resolution 39/149."

B. Preparatory work for the convening of the Conference
on the Indian Ocean

7. During seven formal meetings, from 31 January to 8 February (266th to 272nd meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee undertook consideration of item 5 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work referred to above.
8. At its 267th meeting, on 1 February, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a conference room paper entitled "Amendments, revisions and comments concerning document A/AC.159/L.60" and containing a compilation of written submissions on the subject from its member States. Subsequently, on 12 February, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee sent a letter to the members of the Committee inviting them to transmit any written submissions that they might wish to be included in the conference room paper. The written submissions were incorporated in conference room paper A/AC.159/1985/CRP.1.
9. At its 268th meeting, on 4 February, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a conference room paper entitled "Amendments, revisions and comments concerning document A/AC.159/L.61" and containing a compilation of written submissions on the subject from its member States. Subsequently, on 12 February, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee sent a letter to the members of the Committee inviting them to transmit any written submissions that they might wish to be included in the conference room paper. The written submissions were incorporated in conference room paper A/AC.159/1985/CRP.2 and Add.1 and 2.
10. At the 271st meeting, on 6 February, the representative of Bulgaria introduced a document entitled "Letter dated 23 May 1984 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria addressed to the Secretary-General" (A/AC.159/L.66).
11. During four formal meetings, from 28 March to 4 April (274th and 277th to 279th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued consideration of item 5 of its agenda.
12. During the course of the second session, the Ad Hoc Committee, in informal meetings, completed its second reading of the draft rules of procedure and considered verbal and written amendments submitted by members. It also identified specific rules on which further consideration was required. On the question of participation at the Colombo Conference, some members expressed the opinion that it should be open to universal participation. Other delegations expressed the view that those matters could not be dealt with in isolation and that they should be resolved at a later stage.
13. In the course of consideration of item 5 of its agenda, the members of the Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views, inter alia, on a draft framework of the provisional agenda for the Conference, draft rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation and a final document of the Conference. In addition, during the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee, working within the framework of the preparations for the Conference as mandated in resolution 39/149, there emerged broadly based support for a proposal to establish a working group for consideration of substantive issues. Some delegations expressed the view that such a working group should consider substantive issues and then proceed to the drafting of a draft final document for the Colombo Conference. Other delegations expressed the view that while many of the matters that would be discussed by such a working group might well be included in a draft final document

to be prepared at an appropriate time, a decision as to the drafting of such a document should be left to the Ad Hoc Committee itself once the working group had completed its task. At the end of the second session the Ad Hoc Committee was unable to reach a consensus on a mandate for such a working group.

14. During seven formal meetings, from 2 to 11 July (281st to 285th, 287th and 288th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued consideration of item 5 of its agenda.

15. At its 288th meeting, on 11 July, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group with the following mandate: "to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive issues relating to the establishment of a zone of peace with a view to, inter alia, recommending to the Ad Hoc Committee elements which might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, as called for in General Assembly resolution 39/149".

16. During the discussions in 1985, differences remained on the question of the circumstances under which a successful Conference could be convened. Some delegations were of the view that the preparatory work identified in operative paragraph 5 of resolution 39/149 should be dealt with expeditiously in order to facilitate the opening of the Conference as requested in operative paragraph 4 of that resolution. They emphasized that deterioration of the situation in the region was the very reason that lent urgency to the convening of the Conference. Other delegations expressed the view that a clearer understanding of other fundamental matters, such as the scope, definition and meaning of the zone of peace, was necessary prior to the convening of a Conference. These delegations were also of the view that an amelioration of the prevailing political and security climate in the region was essential for such a Conference to be successful.

17. During the course of the Committee's third session some delegations asked for a fourth session, as envisaged as a possibility in operative paragraph 9 of resolution 39/149 in order to expedite the preparatory work for the Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Other delegations considered that given past experiences of the work in the Ad Hoc Committee, the convening of a fourth session would not be a realistic or efficient use of resources.

C. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its fortieth session

18. The Committee's draft report (A/AC.159/L.67) was introduced to the Committee by its Rapporteur, Mr. André Tahindro (Madagascar), at its 286th meeting, on 10 July.

19. At the 289th meeting, on 12 July, the Committee adopted by consensus parts I and II of its report to the General Assembly, as contained in document A/AC.159/L.67/Rev.1 and as orally amended.

20. At the 290th meeting, on 12 July, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.68).

21. At the 292nd meeting, on 5 December, the Committee adopted by consensus part III of its report, as well as the report as a whole to the General Assembly, as contained in document A/AC.159/L.67/Rev.2 and as orally amended.

III. RECOMMENDATION

22. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983 and 39/149 of 17 December 1984, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Recalling its decision, taken at its thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/80 B, to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo during 1981,

Recalling also its decision to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area and progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening,

Recalling further its decision, taken at its thirty-ninth session in resolution 39/149, concerning the convening of the Conference in the first half of 1986,

Recalling the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1985,

Noting the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

Noting further the various documents before the Ad Hoc Committee,

Convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Considering that any other foreign military presence in the area, whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering further that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Calling for the renewal of genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of the political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Deeply concerned at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security,

Convinced that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the urgent convening of the Conference and that the easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success being achieved by the Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and exchange of views in the Committee; 3/

2. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace adopted in 1971;

3. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee has been unable, during 1985, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean and urges the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination;

4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1986 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country;

5. Emphasizes that the Conference called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace require the full and active participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States;

6. Decides that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of conference, level of

representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues;

8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference;

9. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

10. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three preparatory sessions in 1986 each of a two weeks' duration for completion of preparatory work;

11. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work;

12. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

13. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/39/29).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/40/29).