



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/492/Add.3
27 October 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Forty-third session
Agenda item 64 (9)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[14 October 1988]

1. The Byelorussian SSR believes that, in order to accomplish the paramount tasks of preventing war, halting the arms race and resolutely pursuing disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, the international community should, apart from bilateral efforts, seek to strengthen and improve the multilateral approach. It is becoming increasingly urgent to enhance the effectiveness of the international community's efforts in this field and, in particular, to improve the situation with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on disarmament. The role of the United Nations in achieving the above objectives would be greatly strengthened through the effective implementation of these resolutions.

2. The work of the General Assembly on disarmament questions has shown certain healthy trends. A new, positive outlook is gradually taking the place of the spirit of confrontation. There is a growing desire on the part of delegations to undertake active consultations with a large number of interested parties in drawing up draft resolutions. There is a greater readiness to search seriously for mutually acceptable solutions based on a balance of interests and to co-operate constructively.

3. The Byelorussian SSR considers it necessary to maintain and develop these trends. The efforts of States and groups of States in this area must be joint, responsive and reciprocal. The stereotypes of confrontation must be finally overcome both at the discussion stage and in drafting resolutions. This will make it possible, in particular, to combine draft resolutions and thereby enable the General Assembly to speak on the problems under consideration with one voice. In turn, the international community will be able to concentrate seriously on implementing the decisions adopted.

4. The non-confrontational approach will open up significantly greater prospects for reaching consensus decisions and increasing their number. In this regard, the consensus should be increasingly broadened to cover, in addition to procedural and peripheral issues, questions of substance and problems of fundamental importance. Consensus must be not a formality, but an effective approach encouraging all participants in decisions to act in such a way as to achieve the desired objective. The annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament could play a useful role in this. It would also be desirable for the Secretary-General to be able, in consultation with the participants in disarmament negotiations, to reflect the status of such negotiations in his report. To this end, the practice of informing the United Nations about ongoing negotiations should be **developed**.

5. The time has come to consider on a broader basis the question of entrusting the United Nations with functions relating to the monitoring of compliance with decisions and agreements achieved in the field of disarmament.

6. In view of the growing role of the general public in efforts to achieve disarmament objectives, stepping up the World Disarmament Campaign would help improve the situation with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions,

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[18 October 1988]

1. In the opinion of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the question of implementation of General Assembly resolutions on disarmament is closely linked with the task of enhancing the United Nations role in the field of disarmament and requires, therefore, constant attention from all Member States. Through General Assembly resolutions multilateral approaches to the solution of disarmament issues are formulated as an essential prerequisite for unfolding a broad disarmament process,

2. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has always been an active advocate of joint efforts in this field as envisaged by the Declaration on International Co-operation for the Attainment of the Goals of Disarmament adopted on the basis of a Czechoslovak initiative in 1979. Such co-operation should set the norm for the solution of the questions of disarmament in bilateral, regional and multilateral frameworks.

3. As co-sponsor of resolution 42/38 J, Czechoslovakia stresses the need for the Member States to attach a significance to General Assembly resolutions in the disarmament sphere that would be fully commensurate with the urgency of the questions concerned. A careful approach should be taken to the implementation of those resolutions in spite of their recommendatory nature,

4. Without an active approach on the part of all Member States to General Assembly resolutions on disarmament, the solution of many relevant issues of disarmament would be at a standstill for years and the channels of the quantitative and qualitative arms race could not be successfully cut off,

5. At the same time, the United Nations would not be able to live up to its role of co-ordinating centre and to honour its primary responsibility in disarmament issues to a sufficient degree of effectiveness if the Member States did not pay the necessary attention to its recommendations and decisions in this sphere,

6. More consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions on disarmament should become an important part of the overall efforts of States aimed at increasing United Nations effectiveness and creating material guarantees of general security,

7. A way of improving the situation in the implementation of those resolutions, in the view of Czechoslovakia, consists of broad and equal participation of States

in the process of preparation and, in particular, of adoption of those resolutions on the basis of consensus expressing the political will of States to reach a constructive solution concerning the different questions of disarmament. Of course, resolutions representing the view of most Member States on questions where a consensus has not been possible thus far in spite of best efforts cannot be set aside either.

8. General Assembly resolutions can be a decisive step towards the initiation or activation of specific disarmament negotiations, just as Security Council resolutions pave the way for negotiations on the settlement of international conflicts. The final goal of negotiations should be to work out and make possible the adoption of binding disarmament agreements in order to strengthen general security and the international legal order. Czechoslovakia considers that the approach to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on disarmament also reflects the degree of readiness of Member States to apply multilateral security mechanisms and to build mutual relations on the basis of a balance of interests,

9. Resolution 42/38 J should become a stimulus to the establishment of a practice of in-depth and all-round consideration of the state of implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament. With the help of such consideration it would also be possible gradually to increase the effectiveness of the process of preparation of resolutions, to improve the prerequisite for consensus and to make resolutions, including their line of action, more substantial.

10. In the view of Czechoslovakia, the next report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament should include the opinions of States on all aspects of this subject. At the same time, special attention should be devoted to the aspects concerning increasing the moral and political binding force of resolutions and to the creation of a situation that would make possible concrete steps towards a limitation and reduction of military potentials. The Secretary-General could express in the report his own views on progress in the disarmament process, in particular as regards the role of the United Nations. In the framework of preparation of such a report the Secretary-General should have the possibility to conduct consultations with the participants in specific disarmament negotiations and to receive regular information from them on the course of such negotiations.

11. The need to achieve an improvement in the situation as regards implementation of General Assembly resolutions could also be reflected in the activities carried out within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign,

12. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic favours the continuation and an expansion of constructive international dialogue on these issues as an important step towards the activation of efforts by the international community to take genuine measures leading to a limitation of armaments and disarmament,
