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Agenda item 93

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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Sanna Orava (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace” and to allocate it to the First Committee.
2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2021, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in three phases. The first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 92 to 107, the second phase would be dedicated to thematic discussions and the third phase would be action on all draft proposals. The Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, on the basis of the conference room paper before it,¹ on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament.
3. At its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 4 to 7 and on 11 and 12 October, the Committee held a general debate. On 8, 15 and 21 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, independent experts, and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee also held five meetings (8th to 12th), on 13, 14 and 18 October, for thematic discussions. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft

¹ A/C.1/76/CRP.2, available at www.un.org/en/ga/first/76/documentation76.shtml.



resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 13th to 18th meetings, on 27 October, from 1 to 3 and on 5 November.²

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/76/29).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/76/L.22

5. On 8 October, the delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, submitted a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace” (A/C.1/76/L.22).

6. At its 17th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/76/L.22 by a recorded vote of 135 to 3, with 46 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States

² For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see A/C.1/76/PV.2, A/C.1/76/PV.3, A/C.1/76/PV.4, A/C.1/76/PV.5, A/C.1/76/PV.6, A/C.1/76/PV.7, A/C.1/76/PV.8, A/C.1/76/PV.9, A/C.1/76/PV.10, A/C.1/76/PV.11, A/C.1/76/PV.12, A/C.1/76/PV.13, A/C.1/76/PV.14, A/C.1/76/PV.15, A/C.1/76/PV.16, A/C.1/76/PV.17 and A/C.1/76/PV.18, as well as A/C.1/76/INF/5.

of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee 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 [54/47](#) of 1 December 1999, [56/16](#) of 29 November 2001, [58/29](#) of 8 December 2003, [60/48](#) of 8 December 2005, [62/14](#) of 5 December 2007, [64/23](#) of 2 December 2009, [66/22](#) of 2 December 2011, [68/24](#) of 5 December 2013, [70/22](#) of 7 December 2015, [72/21](#) of 4 December 2017 and [74/25](#) of 12 December 2019 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, held in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979,¹

Recalling further paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003,² in which it was noted, inter alia, that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches that are conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Considering that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;
2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and A/34/45/Corr.1).*

² *A/57/759-S/2003/332*, annex I.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/76/29).*

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".
