

Recalling its resolutions 2667 (XXV) of 7 December 1970 and 2831 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament entitled *Disarmament and Development*,⁴

Noting that, despite the repeated calls by the General Assembly for the adoption of effective measures to put an end to the arms race, military expenditures, especially in the nuclear field, have continued to increase at an alarming speed,

Deeply concerned about the ever-spiralling arms race, especially of nuclear armaments, and the heavy burden which it constitutes for all peoples,

Endorsing the conclusion of the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures* that a substantial reduction in the military expenditures of all countries, particularly of those whose military expenditures are highest, should be brought about as soon as possible,⁵

Considering that persistent action is necessary in order to halt and reduce the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, including continuous efforts towards reducing military budgets, starting with the heavily armed countries,

Considering also that the United Nations should play an effective role in the negotiations on the halting of the arms race and the reduction of military expenditures,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the measures he has taken to reproduce and publicize the report entitled *Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures*, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2831 (XXVI);

2. Expresses its conviction that the report of the Secretary-General will contribute to a better understanding by Governments and public opinion of the gravity of the dangers which the continued acceleration of the arms race, especially the accumulation of nuclear-weapon stockpiles, constitutes for world peace and security and for the economic and social development of all countries;

3. Considers that the constant awareness and the continuing review of the effects of the arms race and of military expenditures, especially in the nuclear field, could facilitate future negotiations on disarmament;

4. Calls upon all States to make renewed efforts aimed at adopting effective measures for the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, including the reduction of military budgets, particularly of the heavily armed countries, with a view to achieving progress towards general disarmament;

5. Requests the organs concerned with disarmament issues to place among their high preoccupations the problems related to the cessation of the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, including the identification of the most appropriate ways and means of approaching matters regarding the reduction of military budgets;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue the study of the consequences of the arms race, paying special attention to its effects on the economic and social development of nations as well as on world

peace and security, in order to enable him to submit, upon request by the General Assembly, an up-to-date report on that matter, on the basis of the information released by Governments;

7. Invites all Governments to extend their full cooperation to the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of the above request;

8. Reiterates its decision to maintain under constant review the item entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security" and decides to include it in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session.

2192nd plenary meeting
6 December 1973

3076 (XXVIII). Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in resolution 2932 A (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, it commended the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and All Aspects of Their Possible Use*⁶ to the attention of all Governments and peoples and requested the Secretary-General to circulate the report to the Governments of Member States for their comments,

Taking note of the comments submitted by Governments⁷ and of the widespread wish that intergovernmental action should be taken with a view to reaching agreement on the prohibition or restriction of use of these weapons,

Emphasizing the need to consider new rules designed to afford better protection of civilians and civilian objects during armed conflicts,

Convinced that the widespread use of many weapons and the emergence of new methods of warfare that may cause unnecessary suffering or are indiscriminate call urgently for efforts by Governments to seek, through possible legal means, the prohibition or restriction of the use of such weapons and of indiscriminate and cruel methods of warfare and, if possible, through measures of disarmament, the elimination of specific weapons that are especially cruel or indiscriminate,

Conscious of the difficulties involved in these tasks and the need for factual bases for discussion,

Considering as one such basis, in addition to the report of the Secretary-General,⁸ the extensive factual report elaborated by an international group of experts under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross entitled *Weapons That May Cause Unnecessary Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects*,⁹ covering, *inter alia*, high-velocity projectiles, blast and fragmentation weapons, time-delay weapons and incendiary weapons, and endorsing the conclusions of the report that intergovernmental review and action regarding weapons of these kinds is called for,

Considering that prohibitions or restrictions of the use of such weapons should be examined without delay and that positive results in this regard are likely to

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.IX.1.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.72.IX.16, para. 120.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.I.3.

⁷ A/9207 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

⁸ Geneva, 1973.

facilitate substantive disarmament negotiations with a view to the elimination of production, stockpiling and proliferation of the weapons in question, which should be the ultimate objective,

Aware that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts will be convened at Geneva on the invitation of the Swiss Federal Council, with a first session envisaged to be held from 20 February to 29 March 1974,

Welcoming as a basis for discussion at that Conference the proposals elaborated by the International Committee of the Red Cross and aiming, *inter alia*, at a reaffirmation of the fundamental general principles of international law prohibiting the use of weapons which are likely to cause unnecessary suffering and means and methods of warfare which have indiscriminate effects,

Considering that the efficacy of these general principles could be further enhanced if rules were elaborated and generally accepted prohibiting or restricting the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons, as well as other specific conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects,

Taking note of the invitation issued by the twenty-second International Conference of the Red Cross to the International Committee of the Red Cross to call, in 1974, a conference of government experts to study in depth the question of the prohibition or restriction of the use of conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects and to transmit a report on the work of the conference to all Governments participating in the Diplomatic Conference with a view to assisting them in their further deliberations,

1. *Invites* the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts to consider—without prejudice to its examination of the draft protocols submitted to it by the International Committee of the Red Cross—the question of the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons, as well as other specific conventional weapons which may be deemed to cause unnecessary suffering or to have indiscriminate effects, and to seek agreement on rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, who has been invited to attend the Diplomatic Conference as an observer, to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on aspects of the work of the Conference relevant to the present resolution.

2192nd plenary meeting
6 December 1973

3077 (XXVIII). Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 2603 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2662 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2827 A (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and 2933 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972,

Expressing its determination to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elim-

ination of all types of weapons of mass destruction such as those using chemical or bacteriological (biological) agents,

Mindful of the increasing concern of the international community over developments in the field of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons,

Considering that chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,

Recalling that the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned all actions that are contrary to the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,⁹

Reaffirming the need for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of that Protocol,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction¹⁰ has already been signed by a large number of States,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,¹¹

Noting that a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction, a ten-nation working paper dated 26 April 1973, a working paper dated 21 August 1973 on the main points of an international agreement and other working papers, proposals and suggestions have been submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

Convinced that an early agreement on the complete prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction would improve the prospects for international peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* the recognized objective of effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and of their elimination from the arsenals of all States;

2. *Urges* Governments to work towards the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, on the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their elimination from the arsenals of all States for the complete realization of the objective as set forth in the present resolution;

4. *Reaffirms* its hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

⁹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138, p. 65.

¹⁰ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

¹¹ A/9141-DC/236. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1973*.