

strengthen the security of the States of the region against nuclear threat or attack,

Noting the affirmation by the States of South Asia not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Recalling that in the above-mentioned resolutions the General Assembly had called upon the States of the South Asian region and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as might be interested to initiate, without delay, necessary consultations with a view to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone and urged them, in the interim, to refrain from any action contrary to the achievement of the objectives of such a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Recalling that in resolution 3265 B (XXIX) the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting for the purpose of the above-mentioned consultations to render such assistance as might be required,

1. *Reaffirms* its endorsement in principle of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. *Urges once again* the States of South Asia and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render such assistance as may be required to promote the above efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

*96th plenary meeting
10 December 1976*

31/74. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3479 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to proceed as soon as possible to work out the text of an agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Being convinced of the importance of concluding an agreement to prevent the use of scientific and technological progress for the development of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction,

Taking into account the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament with regard to this question,³²

Taking note of the discussion at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of the question of the

prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking into account the suggestions and relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly on this subject at its thirty-first session,

1. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, aimed at working out the text of an agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons and to submit a report on the results achieved for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the discussion of this item by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament".

*96th plenary meeting
10 December 1976*

31/75. Implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the danger of nuclear warfare remains a grave threat to the survival of mankind,

Convinced that the prevention of any further proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices remains a vital element in efforts to avert nuclear warfare,

Convinced that the promotion of this objective will be furthered by more rapid progress towards the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and the initiation of effective measures of nuclear disarmament,

Further convinced that the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time would constitute an important step in these efforts,

Noting that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,²⁷ to which about one hundred States are parties, implies a balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of all States parties to the Treaty, nuclear-weapon as well as non-nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons met at Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975 to review the operation of the Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Treaty were being realized,

Further recalling that the Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³³ includes, *inter alia*, a Final Declaration and a number of interpretative statements in connexion with the Final Declaration,

³² *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), paras. 178-198.

³³ See A/C.1/31/4.

Noting that the Conference has called for universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recognizing the necessity of effective international safeguards in order to ensure that the peaceful applications of nuclear energy will not lead to further proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Underlining the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in implementing international non-proliferation policies in connexion with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Concerned that the nuclear-arms race continues unabated,

Recognizing that various appropriate means are necessary to meet the security concerns of non-nuclear-weapon States,

1. *Urgently calls* for determined efforts by all nuclear-weapon States:

(a) To bring about the cessation of the nuclear-arms race;

(b) To undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament;

(c) To find an early solution to the difficulties in reaching agreement to discontinue all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time as a step towards the realization of these objectives;

2. *Emphasizes* the particular responsibility of the two major nuclear-weapon States in this regard;

3. *Stresses* the urgency of international co-operative efforts in appropriate forums to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

4. *Recognizes* that States accepting effective non-proliferation restraints have a right to full access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and underlines the importance of all efforts to increase the availability of energy, particularly for the needs of the developing countries of the world;

5. *Requests* the International Atomic Energy Agency to accord high priority to its programme of work in these areas;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and establishment of a preparatory committee for the second Conference".

*96th plenary meeting
10 December 1976*

31/87. Reduction of military budgets

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 3463 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts, a report containing an analysis and examination in concrete terms of issues regarding a system of international measurement, reporting and comparison of military expenditures,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General³⁴ submitted to the General Assembly in response to the aforementioned resolution,

Reaffirming its conviction of the urgent necessity that the States permanent members of the Security Council, as well as any other State with comparable military expenditures, carry out reductions in their military budgets,

Reaffirming also its conviction that part of the resources thus released should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly that of the developing countries,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and to the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets which assisted in the preparation of the report;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the report to be issued as a United Nations publication and widely distributed;

3. *Invites* all States to communicate to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1977 their comments with regard to matters covered in the report and, in particular:

(a) Their views and suggestions on the proposed standardized reporting instrument contained in the report;

(b) Any information they may wish to convey on their military expenditure accounting practices, including a description of methods currently in use;

(c) Suggestions and recommendations concerning possible practical approaches for the further development and operation of a standardized reporting system;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of an intergovernmental group of budgetary experts appointed by him, a report containing an analysis of the comments provided by States pursuant to paragraph 3 above, in the light of the suggestions contained in the above-mentioned report,³⁴ as well as any further conclusions and recommendations;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to distribute that report not later than 31 August 1977;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets".

*98th plenary meeting
14 December 1976*

31/88. 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 and 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action in furtherance of the objectives of the Declaration would

³⁴ A/31/222/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.I.6).