

Convinced that such reductions could and should be carried out on a mutually agreed basis without detriment to the national security of any country,

Reaffirming its conviction that provisions for defining, reporting, comparing and verifying military expenditures will have to be basic elements of any international agreement to reduce such expenditures,

Recalling that an international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures has been introduced in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980 and that annual reports on military expenditures are now being received from a number of Member States,

Considering that a wider participation in the reporting system would promote its further refinement and would, by contributing to greater openness in military matters, increase confidence between States,

Considering that new initiatives are called for to give a fresh impetus towards achievement of the broadest possible participation, by States from different geographic regions and representing different budgeting systems, in the reporting of military expenditures to the Secretary-General,

Noting that among such initiatives is a proposal to convene an international conference on military expenditures,

Noting with appreciation that, in pursuance of resolution 35/142 B, the Secretary-General has submitted his report on the reduction of military budgets,⁷⁶ which deals, *inter alia*, with the question of comparing and verifying military expenditures and contains several useful conclusions and recommendations for the promotion of further progress in this field,

Considering also that the study of this question should be followed by a practical exercise in order to explore it further with a view to facilitating future negotiations on the reduction of military expenditures,

Emphasizing that all the above-mentioned activities and initiatives, as well as other ongoing activities within the United Nations related to the reduction of military budgets, should have the fundamental objective of facilitating future negotiations aimed at the conclusion of international agreements on the reduction of military expenditures,

1. *Stresses* the need to increase the number of reporting States with a view to the broadest possible participation from different geographic regions and representing different budgeting systems and requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views and suggestions on practical means of promoting this goal and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the results of this consultation;

2. *Reiterates its recommendation* that all Member States should report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General, using the reporting instrument, their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to modify the instructions of the reporting instrument in the manner suggested in paragraph 59 of his report⁷⁶ and to circulate this revised instrument among all Member States so that they may use it in their reporting in 1983;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the collecting and assembling of data on military expenditures, reported by States on the basis of the reporting instrument, an integral part of his normal statistical services and to arrange and publish these data according to statistical practice;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts⁷⁷ and with the voluntary co-operation of States, to undertake the task of constructing price indices and purchasing-power parities for the military expenditures of participating States; this task should encompass a study of the problem as a whole, which would include the following:

- (a) To assess the feasibility of such an exercise;
- (b) To design the project and methodology to be employed;
- (c) To determine the types of data required, such as product descriptions, prices and statistical weights;
- (d) To construct military price indices and purchasing-power parities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain the willingness of States to participate and to enlist their voluntary co-operation;

7. *Invites* Member States to participate in the above-mentioned exercise;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit progress reports to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions and a final report to the Assembly at its fortieth session;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the group of experts with the necessary assistance and secretariat services;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the report on the reduction of military budgets to be issued as a United Nations publication⁷⁶ and to be widely distributed;

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

101st plenary meeting
13 December 1982

37/96. 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 and 36/90 of 9 December 1981, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that, in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, it is stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,⁷⁸

⁷⁶ A/S-12/7. The report was subsequently issued with the title *Reduction of Military Budgets—Refinement of international reporting and comparison of military expenditures* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.4).

⁷⁷ Subsequently referred to as the Group of Experts on the Comparison of Military Budgets.

⁷⁸ Resolution S-10/2, para. 64.

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean,⁷⁹

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

Recalling further its decision, taken at the thirty-fifth session in resolution 35/150, to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the date for its convening,

Recalling the exchange of varied views in the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1982⁸⁰ and noting that, while some progress has been made, a number of issues remain to be resolved,

Noting the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,⁸⁰

Noting also that the *Ad Hoc* Committee has failed to reach consensus on the date for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo,

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 all 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, further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the active participation of and full co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to ensure conditions of peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the general principles of international law,

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 early 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 Ocean⁸¹ and the exchange of views in the Committee;

2. *Regrets* that the *Ad Hoc* Committee has failed to reach consensus on the finalization of the date for the convening in 1983 of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and takes note of the views expressed relating to the need for the convening of the Conference in the first half of 1984;

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

4. *Emphasizes also*, in pursuance of that decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the *Ad Hoc* Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference;

5. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues, including those set forth in paragraph 4 above, and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1984;

6. *Renews* the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

7. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to hold three further sessions in 1983 of a duration of two weeks each, with the possibility of holding a fourth session to be considered as required;

8. *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;

9. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the *Ad Hoc* Committee, including the provision of summary records.

101st plenary meeting
13 December 1982

37/97. World Disarmament Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2833 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, 2930 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3183 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3260 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3469 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/190 of 21 December 1976, 32/89 of 12 December 1977, 33/69 of 14 December 1978, 34/81 of 11 December 1979, 35/151 of 12 December 1980 and 36/91 of 9 December 1981,

Reiterating its conviction that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that all States should be in a position to contribute to the adoption of measures for the achievement of this goal,

⁷⁹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1)

⁸⁰ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29), para. 6

⁸¹ Ibid., Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).