



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/RES/46/37  
31 December 1991

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Forty-sixth session  
Agenda item 61

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/46/674)]

46/37. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

World Disarmament Campaign

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Recalling also its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 45/59 C of 4 December 1990,

Having examined the reports of the Secretary-General of 4 October 1991 on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, 1/ and of 30 August 1991 on the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters relating to the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, 2/ as well as the Final Act of the Ninth United Nations Pledging Conference for the Campaign, 3/ held on 29 October 1991,

Taking note with appreciation of the contributions that Member States have already made to the Campaign,

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1/ A/46/498.

2/ A/46/400.

3/ A/CONF.159/1.

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1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 4 October 1991 on the World Disarmament Campaign;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to elected officials, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out an active seminar and conference programme;

3. Notes with appreciation the contributions to the efforts of the Campaign by the United Nations information centres and the regional centres for disarmament;

4. Recommends that the Campaign, as a global information programme, should further focus its efforts:

(a) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of and support for multilateral action, including by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner;

(b) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(c) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors, and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

5. Invites all Member States to contribute to the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund;

6. Decides that at its forty-seventh session there should be a tenth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign, and expresses the hope that on that occasion all those Member States which have not yet announced any voluntary contributions will do so, bearing in mind the objectives of the Third Disarmament Decade and the need to ensure its success;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report covering both the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign by the United Nations system during 1992 and the programme of activities contemplated by the system for 1993;

8. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "World Disarmament Campaign".

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B

Regional confidence-building measures

The General Assembly.

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with its Charter,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling also its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989 and 45/58 M of 4 December 1990,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the final document adopted by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States on confidence-building measures, security, disarmament and development in their subregion, 4/ at the seminar-workshop held at Yaoundé from 17 to 21 June 1991,

1. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and non-proliferation measures at regional and subregional levels in Central Africa;
2. Welcomes the initiative taken by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States with a view to developing confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion, by, in particular, the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa;
3. Thanks the Secretary-General for his contribution to the Yaoundé seminar-workshop and requests him to continue providing assistance to the Central African States in implementing the recommendations and conclusions set forth in the final document of the seminar-workshop, by, in particular, establishing the standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa;

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4/ A/46/307-S/22805, annex.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures".

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C

Nuclear-arms freeze

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 5/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, adopted in 1978 and unanimously and categorically reaffirmed in 1982 during the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, 6/ the second special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly expressed deep concern over the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the new trends that have led to an improvement in the international security environment,

Welcoming also the announcements of the significant measures, including unilateral steps, by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which could signal the reversal of the nuclear-arms race,

Welcoming further the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on 31 July 1991, and expressing the hope that it will be followed by agreement at an early date on further cuts in strategic nuclear arsenals,

Convinced of the urgency of further negotiations for the substantial reduction and qualitative limitation of existing nuclear arms,

Considering that a nuclear-arms freeze, while not an end in itself, would constitute an effective step to prevent the qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weaponry during the period when the negotiations take place, and that it would at the same time reinforce the favourable environment for the conduct of negotiations to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons,

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5/ Resolution S-10/2.

6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9 to 13, document A/S-12/32.

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Convinced also that the undertakings derived from the freeze can be effectively verified,

Welcoming the unilateral steps taken by the nuclear-weapon States for the cessation of the production of highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons and for the shutting down of reactors producing weapons-grade plutonium,

Noting with concern that all nuclear-weapon States have not so far taken any collective action in response to the call made in the relevant resolutions on the question of a nuclear-arms freeze,

Convinced further that the current international situation is most conducive to nuclear disarmament,

1. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, as the two major nuclear-weapon States, to reach agreement on an immediate nuclear-arms freeze, which would, inter alia, provide for a simultaneous total stoppage of any production of nuclear weapons and a complete cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to agree, through a joint declaration, to a comprehensive nuclear-arms freeze, whose structure and scope would be the following:

(a) It would embrace:

- (i) A comprehensive test ban on nuclear weapons and on their delivery vehicles;
- (ii) The complete cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;
- (iii) A ban on all further deployment of nuclear weapons and of their delivery vehicles;
- (iv) The complete cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

(b) It would be subject to appropriate and effective measures and procedures of verification;

3. Requests once again the nuclear-weapon States to submit a joint report, or separate reports, to the General Assembly, prior to the opening of its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Nuclear-arms freeze".

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D

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the existence and use of nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to the survival of mankind,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament is the only ultimate guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons,

Convinced further that a multilateral agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should strengthen international security and contribute to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on 31 July 1991,

Welcoming also the announcements by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America of significant measures, including unilateral steps, which could signal the reversal of the nuclear arms race, and expressing the hope that these will be followed by agreements at an early date on further cuts in strategic nuclear arsenals,

Conscious that the recent steps taken by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 5/ it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1991 session, was not able to undertake negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a basis the text annexed to General Assembly resolution 45/59 B of 4 December 1990,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, as a matter of priority, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution;  
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2. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of these negotiations.

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ANNEX

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of  
Nuclear Weapons

The States Parties to this Convention,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that any use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity,

Convinced that this Convention would be a step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons leading to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Determined to continue negotiations for the achievement of this goal,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States Parties to this Convention solemnly undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Article 2

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3

1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State that does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty-five Governments, including the Governments of the five nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of the Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

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6. This Convention shall be registered by the depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention, opened for signature at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ one thousand nine hundred and \_\_\_\_\_.

Recalling also its resolutions 37/100 G of 13 December 1982, 38/73 C of 15 December 1983, 39/63 B of 12 December 1984, 40/151 H of 16 December 1985, 41/60 H of 3 December 1986, 42/39 I of 30 November 1987, 43/76 F of 7 December 1988, 44/117 E of 15 December 1989 and 45/59 A of 4 December 1990,



Noting also with satisfaction that the programme, as designed, has enabled an increased number of public officials, particularly from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, particularly to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. Reaffirms its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General B/ approved by resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden and the United States of America for inviting the 1991 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. Notes with satisfaction that, within the framework of the programme, the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat organized regional disarmament workshops for Africa in April 1989 at Lagos, for Asia and the Pacific in January 1991 at Bandung, Indonesia, and for Latin America and the Caribbean in July 1991 at Mexico City;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Nigeria, Indonesia and Mexico for their support of the regional disarmament workshops, as well as to the Governments of Norway and New Zealand for making financial contributions;

5. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the implementation of the programme within existing resources and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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B/ A/33/305.

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament  
in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and  
Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations  
Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 G of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia, and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 and 45/59 E of 4 December 1990 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its resolutions 37/100 F of 13 December 1982, 38/73 J of 15 December 1983, 39/63 F of 12 December 1984, 40/94 A of 12 December 1985, 41/59 M of 3 December 1986, 42/39 E of 30 November 1987, 44/117 B of 15 December 1989 and 45/58 M of 4 December 1990 on regional disarmament,

Convinced that the initiatives and activities mutually agreed upon by Member States of the respective regions aimed at fostering mutual confidence and security, as well as the implementation and coordination of regional activities under the World Disarmament Campaign, would encourage and facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament in these regions,

Welcoming the programme of activities carried out by the regional centres, which have contributed substantially to understanding and cooperation among the States in each particular region and have thereby strengthened the role assigned to each regional centre in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Recognizing the need to provide the regional centres with financial viability and stability so as to facilitate the effective planning and implementation of their respective programmes of activities,

Expressing its gratitude to the Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have contributed to the trust funds of the three regional centres,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the three regional centres, 2/ and of his efforts in providing the necessary administrative measures to permit the effective functioning of the three centres, which are an integral part of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat,

1. Encourages the regional centres to continue intensifying their efforts, in accordance with their mandates, in promoting cooperation among the States in their respective regions with a view to facilitating the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament;
2. Commends the Secretary-General for all the efforts he has made to assist the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities, and requests him to continue to provide all the necessary support to the centres;
3. Appeals once again to Member States, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes of activities of the regional centres and their effective implementation;
4. Decides that, to ensure the continued financial viability of the regional centres, the administrative costs of the centres shall be financed from the regular budget;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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