



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/38/244  
5 October 1983  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Thirty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE  
AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREEZE

Letter dated 4 October 1983 from the First Deputy Chairman of the Council  
of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of the USSR addressed to the Secretary-General

The Soviet Union proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Nuclear-weapon freeze".

In putting forward this proposal, the Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that one of the most pressing tasks at the present time is to put an end to the build-up of nuclear weapons and to halt another spiral of the nuclear arms race into which the world is being drawn at an ever faster pace. The fulfilment of this task would represent a major contribution to reducing the risk of nuclear war which threatens the peoples of the world.

In the light of the present deterioration of the international situation, a nuclear-weapon freeze by all nuclear-weapon States, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, would constitute an extremely important measure in curbing the arms race.

The proposed measure would include cessation of the build-up of all components of nuclear arsenals, including all kinds of nuclear-weapon delivery systems and nuclear weapons, renunciation of the deployment of nuclear weapons of new kinds and types, a moratorium on all tests of nuclear weapons and on tests of new kinds and types of their delivery systems, and cessation of the production of fissionable materials for the purpose of creating nuclear weapons.

It is quite evident that a nuclear freeze would be most effective if it were carried out simultaneously by all the nuclear Powers. However, the Soviet Union considers it possible for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to be the first to implement it, on a bilateral basis by way of example to the other nuclear Powers.

A freeze on all components of nuclear arsenals would greatly enhance confidence in relations among nuclear-weapon States and would make it possible to bring about a decisive turn towards improving the overall climate in the world. It would create a more favourable atmosphere for achieving mutually acceptable agreements at the ongoing negotiations on the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons in accordance with the principle of equality and equal security.

The Soviet Union views a nuclear-weapon freeze as an important and truly tangible measure the adoption of which would substantially contribute to reducing and, ultimately, eliminating nuclear weapons completely.

I request you, Sir, to regard this letter as the explanatory memorandum required under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to have it distributed, together with the attached draft resolution, as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO  
First Deputy Chairman of the  
Council of Ministers of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR

ANNEX

Nuclear-weapon freeze

The General Assembly,

Expressing its alarm that the continuing nuclear arms race seriously increases the risk of the outbreak of a nuclear war,

Taking into account the great responsibility of nuclear States for the preservation of universal peace and the prevention of nuclear war,

Recalling its resolution 37/100 B, in which it expresses the firm conviction that at present the conditions are most propitious for a nuclear-weapon freeze,

1. Urges all nuclear-weapon States to proceed to freeze, under appropriate verification, all nuclear weapons in their possession both in quantitative and qualitative terms, namely:

- To cease the build-up of all components of nuclear arsenals, including all kinds of nuclear-weapon delivery systems and all kinds of nuclear weapons;

- Not to deploy nuclear weapons of new kinds and types;

- To establish a moratorium on all tests of nuclear weapons and on tests of new kinds and types of their delivery systems;

- To stop the production of fissionable materials for the purpose of creating nuclear weapons;

2. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which possess the largest nuclear arsenals, to freeze, in the first place and simultaneously, their nuclear weapons on a bilateral basis by way of example to the other nuclear States;

3. Believes that all the other nuclear-weapon States should subsequently and as soon as possible freeze their nuclear weapons;

4. Points to the urgent need to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy achievement of agreements on substantial limitations and radical reductions of nuclear weapons with a view to their complete elimination as the ultimate goal.

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