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Forty-third session  
Agenda item 68IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN  
AS A ZONE OF PEACEReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/43 of 30 November 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 51 to 69 and 139, 141 and 145. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 17 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 3 and 18 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.26-43).
4. In connection with item 68, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/43/29).

(b) Letter dated 29 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/667-S/20212);

(c) Letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-third session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 3 October 1988 (A/43/709);

(d) Letter dated 21 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/741).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. At the 26th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee containing, in paragraph 19, a draft resolution.

6. In this connection, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.73).

7. At its 33rd meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean without a vote (see para. 8).

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### 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, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of

13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming 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,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

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, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also 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,

Further convinced that the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the urgent convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo and that the further easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success of the Conference,

Considering 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,

Recalling the decision of the Ad Hoc Committee to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area and progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including dates for its convening,

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

Noting that, in accordance with resolution 42/43, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report, 3/ adopted by consensus, to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, and urged it to reaffirm its full support for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Noting further that the Ad Hoc Committee has requested the Secretary-General to continue to extend to it all necessary assistance in order to facilitate the intensification of the Committee's work towards the implementation of its mandate and to enable the completion of its remaining preparatory work for the early convening of the Conference, as repeatedly called for by the Assembly, in particular in its resolution 42/43,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 4/
2. Reaffirms full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;
3. Reiterates and emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean 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. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;
5. Notes with satisfaction that in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, progress has been made by the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 1988;
6. Urges the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions of substantive issues and principles, including those identified by the Chairman of the Working Group in his report dated 14 July 1988, 5/ with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference;

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3/ Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/S-15/5).

4/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/43/29).

5/ A/AC.159/L.85.

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1989, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1990 in consultation with the host country;

8. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee, during its preparatory sessions in 1989, will continue to keep under review the need to organize its work more effectively in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

9. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee should commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place in July 1979, during its preparatory sessions in 1989;

10. 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;

11. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference;

12. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

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