

in mind the need to achieve optimum co-ordination in the work of the Secretariat to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the appointment by the Secretary-General of a qualified individual with the full-time task of promoting the practical applications of space technology;¹⁶

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States to share with other interested Member States the space venture and the practical benefits which may be derived from their programmes in space technology;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their activities and invites all Member States to do so;

11. *Approves* sponsorship by the United Nations of the CELPA Mar del Plata Station¹⁷ in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 and recommends that Member States should give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities;

12. *Approves* continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station and recommends that Member States should give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities;

13. *Notes with appreciation* that, in accordance with resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information furnished by Member States;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other interested specialized agencies, the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property, as well as the broadcasting organizations of the type mentioned in paragraph 45 of the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on its second session, to prepare reports as suggested by the Working Group as basic documents for the work of that Group at its session in May 1970;

15. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to examine the particular problems which arise or which may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and which should in their opinion be brought to the attention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and to report thereon to the Committee for its consideration, as indicated in paragraph 2 above;

16. *Invites* the specialized agencies concerned and the International Atomic Energy Agency to furnish the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space;

17. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set out in the present resolution and in previous General Assembly resolutions, and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 21 (A/7621), para. 12.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 21A (A/7621/Add.1), paras. 9-11.

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space,

Confirming the terms of reference assigned to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in General Assembly resolution 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961,

Recalling that in its resolutions 1963 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, 2130 (XX) of 21 December 1965 and 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 it requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to prepare a draft agreement on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space,

Recalling further that in its resolution 2345 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, in which it commended the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, it also called upon the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to complete urgently the preparation of the draft agreement on liability,

Recalling also its resolution 2453 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 in which it requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to complete urgently the preparation of the draft agreement on liability,

Noting that various proposals have been submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and that a considerable number of provisions have been agreed upon in its Legal Sub-Committee,

1. *Regrets* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has not been able to complete the drafting of a liability convention, a task assigned to it by the General Assembly during the last six years;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twelfth session to complete the preparation of this draft with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

3. *Notes* that a certain *rapprochement* of views was achieved in the negotiations on the draft convention on liability in 1969;

4. *Expresses its deep dissatisfaction* that efforts to complete the convention have not been successful and, at the same time, urges the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to complete the draft convention on liability in time for final consideration by the General Assembly during its twenty-fifth session;

5. *Emphasizes* that the convention is intended to establish international rules and procedures concerning liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and to ensure, in particular, prompt and equitable compensation for damage.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

2602 (XXIV). Question of general and complete disarmament

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2456 D (XXIII) of 20 December 1968,

Noting with satisfaction that, on 17 November 1969, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America initiated bilateral negotiations on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems,

Expressing the hope that these negotiations will bring about early and positive results which would pave the way for further efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament,

Convinced of the necessity for creating the most favourable conditions for the achievement of that aim,

Appeals to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to agree, as an urgent preliminary measure, on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1660 (XVI) of 28 November 1961 on the question of disarmament,

Recalling further its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 on the same question by which it endorsed the agreement reached on the composition of a Disarmament Committee, the membership of which was as follows: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America,

Bearing in mind that in the debates of the First Committee during the twenty-third session attention was drawn to the convenience of enlarging the composition of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in order to make it more representative of the international community,

Noting that the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have reached agreement on the inclusion of eight additional members, which have already been participating in the deliberations of the Committee,¹⁸

Recognizing that all States have a deep interest in disarmament negotiations,

1. *Endorses* the agreement that has been reached on the title¹⁹ and on the following composition of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia;

2. *Welcomes* the eight new members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

3. *Expresses its conviction* that, to effect any change in the composition of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament specified in paragraph 1 above,

¹⁸ See *Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1969*, document DC/232, paras. 10 and 11.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 12.

the procedure followed at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly should be observed;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance and provide the necessary services to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

C

The General Assembly,

Noting with grave concern that among the possible effects of radiological warfare could be the destruction of mankind,

Aware that radiological warfare may be conducted both by maximizing the radioactive effects of nuclear explosions and through the use of radioactive agents independently of nuclear explosions,

1. *Invites* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to consider, without prejudice to existing priorities, effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare conducted independently of nuclear explosions;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament consider, in the context of nuclear arms control negotiations, the need for effective methods of control of nuclear weapons that maximize radioactive effects;

3. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to inform the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session of the results of its consideration of this subject.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

D

The General Assembly,

Noting that continued scientific and technological advancement creates new opportunities for the application of science and technology both for peaceful and for military purposes,

Noting the rapid development of laser technology, which is becoming increasingly important in many civilian and military fields,

Concerned at the possible military applications of laser technology,

Recommends that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament give consideration, without prejudice to existing priorities, to the implications of the possible military applications of laser technology.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

E

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, in which it considered that the question of general and complete disarmament was the most important one facing the world today,

Reaffirming further the responsibility of the United Nations in the attainment of disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, by which it welcomed the joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations sub-

mitted on 20 September 1961 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America,²⁰ and reaffirming the recommendation that further disarmament negotiations be based on those principles,

Recalling its resolution 2454 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, whereby it requested the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to make renewed efforts towards achieving substantial progress in reaching agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and to continue its urgent efforts to negotiate collateral measures of disarmament,

Convinced that the process of disarmament would be encouraged and stimulated by the entry into force at the earliest possible stage and the strengthening of multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

Convinced that the participation of all nuclear Powers in the efforts to contain the nuclear arms race and to reduce and eliminate all armaments is indispensable for a full measure of success in these efforts,

Convinced that peace and security in the world, like development, are indivisible, and recognizing the universal responsibilities and obligations in this regard,

Further convinced of the need to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Having received the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,²¹

Bearing in mind the grave dangers involved in the development of new nuclear weapons through a spiralling nuclear arms race,

Believing that the diversion of enormous resources and energy, human and material, from peaceful economic and social pursuits to an unproductive and wasteful arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, places a great burden on both the developing and the developed countries,

Believing that the security and the economic and social well-being of all countries would be enhanced as progress is made towards the goal of general and complete disarmament,

Reaffirming its resolution 2499 A (XXIV) of 31 October 1969, and in particular paragraph 9, in which the General Assembly endorsed the call of the Secretary-General for the proclamation of a Disarmament Decade, and paragraph 17, in which the Assembly appealed to all Member States to consider the possibility of signing or ratifying the multilateral international instruments in the field of disarmament,

1. *Declares* the decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade;

2. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify without delay their concerted and concentrated efforts for effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, and for a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

²⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 19, document A/4879.

²¹ *Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1969*, document DC/232.

3. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to resume its work as early as possible, bearing in mind that the ultimate goal is general and complete disarmament;

4. *Further requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while continuing intensive negotiations with a view to reaching the widest possible agreement on collateral measures, to work out at the same time a comprehensive programme, dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under effective international control, which would provide the Conference with a guideline to chart the course of its further work and its negotiations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to this effect to draw the attention of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to all pertinent proposals and suggestions formulated during the debates on disarmament, referring to the Conference all documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee relating to the items on disarmament;

6. *Recommends further* that consideration be given to channelling a substantial part of the resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament to promote the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, their scientific and technological progress;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and Governments to publicize the Disarmament Decade by all appropriate means at their disposal in order to acquaint public opinion with its purposes and objectives and with the negotiations and developments related thereto;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate facilities and assistance with a view to furthering the fullest implementation of the present resolution.

1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.

F

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and the ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament²² and noting with appreciation the work of that Committee in the elaboration of a draft treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof,

Noting the suggestions and proposals relating to the draft Treaty annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,²³ which were made during the course of the discussion of this matter in the First Committee, as well as the suggestions made during the special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,²⁴

Considering that the prevention of a nuclear arms race on the sea-bed and the ocean floor serves the interests of maintaining world peace, reducing international tensions and strengthening friendly relations among States,

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*, annex A.

²⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 22A (A/7622/Add.1)*.

Convinced that the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof would constitute a step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof from the arms race,

1. *Welcomes* the submission to the General Assembly at its present session of the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, annexed to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and the various proposals and suggestions made in regard to the draft Treaty;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to take into account all the proposals and suggestions that have been made at the present session of the General Assembly and to continue its work on this subject so that the text of a draft treaty can be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

2603 (XXIV). Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

A

The General Assembly,

Considering that chemical and biological methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,

Considering that these methods of warfare are inherently reprehensible because their effects are often uncontrollable and unpredictable and may be injurious without distinction to combatants and non-combatants, and because any use of such methods would entail a serious risk of escalation,

Recalling that successive international instruments have prohibited or sought to prevent the use of such methods of warfare,

Noting specifically in this regard that:

(a) The majority of States then in existence adhered to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,²⁵

(b) Since then, further States have become parties to that Protocol,

(c) Still other States have declared that they will abide by its principles and objectives,

(d) These principles and objectives have commanded broad respect in the practice of States,

(e) The General Assembly, without any dissenting vote, has called for the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Geneva Protocol,²⁶

Recognizing therefore, in the light of all the above circumstances, that the Geneva Protocol embodies the generally recognized rules of international law prohibiting the use in international armed conflicts of all biological and chemical methods of warfare, regardless of any technical developments,

Mindful of the report of the Secretary-General, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Consultant

²⁵ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

²⁶ See resolution 2162 B (XXI) of 5 December 1966, para. 1.

Experts appointed by him under General Assembly resolution 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, and entitled *Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of Their Possible Use*,²⁷

Considering that this report and the foreword to it by the Secretary-General add further urgency for an affirmation of these rules and for dispelling, for the future, any uncertainty as to their scope and, by such affirmation, to assure the effectiveness of the rules and to enable all States to demonstrate their determination to comply with them,

Declares as contrary to the generally recognized rules of international law, as embodied in the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, the use in international armed conflicts of:

(a) Any chemical agents of warfare—chemical substances, whether gaseous, liquid or solid—which might be employed because of their direct toxic effects on man, animals or plants;

(b) Any biological agents of warfare—living organisms, whatever their nature, or infective material derived from them—which are intended to cause disease or death in man, animals or plants, and which depend for their effects on their ability to multiply in the person, animal or plant attacked.

*1836th plenary meeting,
16 December 1969.*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of Their Possible Use*,²⁷

Noting the conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained in the foreword to the report,

Noting also the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and during the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly,

Mindful of the conclusion of the report that the prospects for general and complete disarmament under effective international control and hence for peace throughout the world would brighten significantly if the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological (biological) agents intended for purposes of war were to end and if they were eliminated from all military arsenals,

Recognizing the importance of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,²⁸

Conscious of the need to maintain inviolate the Geneva Protocol and to ensure its universal applicability,

Emphasizing the urgency of the need for achieving the earliest elimination of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons,

²⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.69.I.24.

²⁸ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.