

deem appropriate within their respective fields of competence.

*96th plenary meeting  
10 December 1976*

**31/71. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, in which it overwhelmingly commended the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

*Recalling also* its resolution 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, in which it recognized that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East enjoys wide support in the region,

*Mindful* of the prevailing political situation in the region and the potential danger emanating therefrom that would be further aggravated by the introduction of nuclear weapons in the area,

*Concerned* that the lack of any appreciable progress in the direction of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in the present atmosphere in the region, will further complicate the situation,

*Convinced* that progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East will greatly enhance the cause of peace both in the region and in the world,

*Conscious* of the particular nature of the problems involved and the complexities inherent in the situation in the Middle East, and the urgency of keeping the region free from involvement in a ruinous nuclear-arms race,

1. *Expresses the need* for further action to generate momentum towards realization of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

2. *Urges* all parties directly concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>27</sup> as a means of promoting this objective;

3. *Reiterates* its recommendation that the Member States referred to in paragraph 2 above, pending the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone under an effective system of safeguards, should:

(a) Proclaim solemnly and immediately their intention to refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons in their territory or the territory under their control by any third party;

(b) Refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from any other action that would facilitate the acquisition, testing or use of such weapons, or would be in any other way detrimental to the objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region under an effective system of safeguards;

(c) Agree to place all their nuclear activities under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

4. *Reaffirms* the recommendations to the nuclear-weapon States to refrain from any action contrary to

<sup>27</sup> Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

the purpose of the present resolution and the objective of establishing, in the region of the Middle East, a nuclear-weapon-free zone under an effective system of safeguards and to extend their co-operation to the States of the region in their efforts to promote this objective;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of making progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the area of the Middle East;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

*96th plenary meeting  
10 December 1976*

**31/72. Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3475 (XXX) of 11 December 1975,

*Recalling* its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it recognized that all States have a deep interest in disarmament and arms control negotiations,

*Determined* to avert the potential dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

*Convinced* that broad adherence to a convention on the prohibition of such action would contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and averting the threat of war,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has completed and transmitted to the General Assembly, in the report on its work in 1976,<sup>28</sup> the text of a draft Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques,<sup>29</sup>

*Noting further* that the Convention is intended to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use,

*Bearing in mind* that draft agreements on disarmament and arms control measures submitted to the General Assembly by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be the result of a process of effective negotiations, and that such instruments should duly take into account the views and interests of all States so that they can be adhered to by the widest possible number of countries,

*Bearing in mind* that article VIII of the Convention makes provision for a conference to review the operation of the Convention five years after its entry into force, with a view to ensuring that its purposes and provisions are being realized,

*Also bearing in mind* all relevant documents and negotiating records of the Conference of the Committee

<sup>28</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27).

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 27 (A/31/27), vol. I, annex I.