

32/87. General and complete disarmament**A**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2660 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, in which it commended the 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,²³

Convinced that the Treaty constitutes a step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof from the arms race,

Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty met at Geneva from 20 June to 1 July 1977 to review the operation of the Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Treaty were being realized,

Noting with satisfaction that the Review Conference of the Parties to the 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 concluded that the obligations assumed under the Treaty had been faithfully observed by the States parties,

Noting that in its Final Declaration²⁴ the Review Conference affirmed its belief that universal adherence to the Treaty would enhance international peace and security,

Noting furthermore that the States parties to the Treaty reaffirmed their strong support for and continued dedication to the principles and objectives of the Treaty, as well as their commitment to implement effectively its provisions,

Recognizing that in the Final Declaration the States parties to the Treaty reaffirmed the commitment undertaken in article V to continue negotiations in good faith concerning further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof,

Bearing in mind that, in this connexion, they have addressed specific requests to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,²⁵

Noting the comments with respect to further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, as well as relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the positive assessment by the Review Conference of the Parties to the 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 of the effectiveness of the Treaty since its entry into force;

²³ For the text of the Treaty, see resolution 2660 (XXV), annex.

²⁴ See A/C.1/32/4.

²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/32/27).*

2. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons or any other types of weapons of mass destruction, to ratify or accede to the Treaty as a significant contribution to international confidence;

3. *Affirms* its strong interest in avoiding an arms race in nuclear weapons or any other types of weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed, the ocean floor or the subsoil thereof;

4. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament—in consultation with the States parties to the Treaty and taking into account the proposals made during the Review Conference and any relevant technological developments—to proceed promptly with the consideration of further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race in that environment;

5. *Calls upon* all States to refrain from any action which might lead to the extension of the arms race to the sea-bed and the ocean floor;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament all documents of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly relevant to further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof;

7. *Requests* the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to report on its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/189 C of 21 December 1976, in which it requested the nuclear-weapon States, as a first step towards a complete ban on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, to consider undertaking, without prejudice to their obligations arising from treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States not parties to the nuclear security arrangements of some nuclear-weapon Powers,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and the threat to mankind due to the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to devise effective measures to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Noting that the non-nuclear-weapon States have called for assurances from nuclear-weapon Powers that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them.

Considering that the existence of credible and binding restraints against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States would contribute towards strengthening the international non-proliferation régime and creating a suitable climate for disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 3261 G (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, in which it recommended that Member

States should consider in all appropriate forums, without loss of time, the question of strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon States,

1. *Reaffirms* the provisions of its resolution 31/189 C;

2. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon Powers to give serious consideration to extending the undertaking proposed by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/189 C and to take expeditious action in all relevant forums to strengthen the security of non-nuclear-weapon States;

3. *Recommends* that all possible efforts be made at its special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978, to evolve binding and credible security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, taking into account resolution 31/189 C.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

C

The General Assembly,

Mindful that, according to Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security,

Convinced that the relationship of international peace and security to disarmament is a close one and that a determination of this relationship can promote peace, security and disarmament,

Considering that for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978, the Preparatory Committee proposed that one agenda item be a review and appraisal of the close interrelationship between disarmament, international peace and security and economic development,

Considering further that it has examined at the current session a proposal for a study of experts on the interrelationship between disarmament and development,²⁶

Bearing in mind the need for a parallel study of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate a study on the interrelationship between disarmament and international security;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

D

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the fact that the armaments race is accelerating and that the world figure for expenditures on armaments continues to increase,

Convinced of the need to intensify and diversify the efforts to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Reaffirming the right of each State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, to determine the appropriate conditions, and to take all the necessary measures, for

ensuring its security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Mindful of the importance which new regional measures taken on the initiative of the States concerned may have,

Convinced of the usefulness for the international community of a study on all regional aspects of disarmament,

1. *Invites* all States to inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 April 1978, of their views and suggestions concerning the regional aspects of disarmament, including measures designed to increase confidence and stability as well as means of promoting disarmament on a regional basis;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the communications received by him from Governments as official documents to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978;

3. *Decides* to consider at its thirty-third session the desirability of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, with the collaboration of a special group of qualified governmental experts, a comprehensive study of all the regional aspects of disarmament, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, the decisions and recommendations that may be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

E

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/90 of 14 December 1976, in which it endorsed the agreed proposals made by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament,²⁷

Having considered the report on the measures taken by the Secretary-General as recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Committee,²⁸

Noting that the Secretary-General has carried out the request in resolution 31/90 to implement as soon as possible the measures recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Committee falling within his area of responsibilities,

Noting with satisfaction the publication of the first volume of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*,²⁹

Recognizing the vital interest of all Governments and world public opinion to be kept properly informed on all efforts in the field of disarmament,

Recalling the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to the effect that the General Assembly, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, should consider publication of a disarmament periodical,

1. *Emphasizes* the need for a disarmament periodical presenting in highly readable form current facts and developments in the field of disarmament, such as summaries of new proposals, of important relevant statements and communiqués and of in-depth studies undertaken by the United Nations or the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, annotated

²⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/31/36)*, para. 18.

²⁸ A/32/276.

²⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.IX.2.

²⁶ See resolution 32/88 A.

bibliographies and brief summaries of important books and articles on disarmament questions and related matters;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate the publication of a disarmament periodical in all the working languages of the General Assembly.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

F

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the danger of nuclear warfare remains a grave threat to the survival of mankind,

Convinced that the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, especially in those areas of the world where the maintenance of international peace and security is endangered, remains an important element in the efforts to avert nuclear warfare,

Recalling resolution 31/189 D of 21 December 1976, in which the General Assembly requested the International Atomic Energy Agency to give special attention to its programme of work in the non-proliferation area and to give careful consideration to all relevant suggestions aimed at strengthening the safeguards régime that have been presented to the Agency, including the communication from the Government of Finland,³⁰ and to report on the progress of its work on this question to the Assembly at its thirty-second session,

Noting the annual report for 1976 of the International Atomic Energy Agency,³¹

Recalling also its resolution 31/75 of 10 December 1976 on the implementation of the conclusions of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the recommendations, proposals and statements made at the Conference,³²

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which it commended the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³³ and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Treaty,

Noting that more than one hundred States are now parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Underlining the importance of the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons responding positively—by participating in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as provided in article IV of the Treaty—to the proposals and preoccupation of the non-nuclear-weapon States in order to facilitate the adherence of all non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty,

Noting also the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world as a possible means of contributing to the preven-

tion of the proliferation of nuclear weapons as recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/70 of 10 December 1976 on the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,

Recognizing the need to ensure, on a non-discriminatory basis in accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in keeping with the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a supply of nuclear technology, materials and facilities to meet the world's energy needs,

Noting the deliberations of the International Conference on Nuclear Power and Its Fuel Cycle, held at Salzburg, Austria, from 2 to 13 May 1977³⁴ under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Conference on the Transfer of Nuclear Technology, held at Persepolis, Iran, from 10 to 14 April 1977, which confirmed the important and growing contribution that nuclear energy will make to meeting the energy needs of all countries, including the developing countries,

Noting also that the Organizing Conference of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, held in Washington, D.C., from 19 to 21 October 1977,³⁵ recognized that nuclear energy should be made widely available for peaceful purposes, that effective measures could and should be taken at the national level and through international agreements to minimize the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and that the evaluation would not jeopardize the respective fuel cycle policies or international co-operation, agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that agreed safeguard measures were applied,

Anxious that the accelerated spread and development of nuclear technology should not increase the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and convinced that these two objectives are not contradictory,

Underlining again the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting the contribution of nuclear energy to economic progress, bearing in mind the special needs of developing countries, and in implementing safeguards in the interest of non-proliferation,

Noting that the International Atomic Energy Agency has made further progress in its safeguards activities by increasing its preparedness to reach with States which are not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, if they so desire, universal and non-discriminatory safeguards agreements no less effective than those concluded by the International Atomic Energy Agency with States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, by keeping under scrutiny the strengthening of its safeguards, by completing this year a study on the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres and by presenting a draft convention for physical protection of nuclear materials,

Determined that similar progress could be made in exploring possibilities of increased assistance to the developing areas of the world,

³⁰ A/C.1/31/6.

³¹ International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1976* (Austria, July 1977); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/32/158 and Add.1).

³² See A/C.1/31/4.

³³ For the text of the Treaty, see resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

³⁴ For the proceedings of the Conference, see International Atomic Energy Agency, *Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle* (STI/PUB/465).

³⁵ For the final communiqué of the Conference, see A/C.1/32/7.

1. *Urgently* calls for determined efforts by all nuclear-weapon States:

(a) To bring about the cessation of the nuclear arms race;

(b) To undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament;

(c) To find an early solution to the remaining problems in reaching agreement to discontinue all test explosions of nuclear weapons as a step towards the realization of these objectives;

2. *Emphasizes* in this connexion the particular responsibility of those nuclear-weapon States that have already accepted international obligations, namely in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with respect to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and the discontinuance of nuclear-weapon tests and notes as encouraging the recent efforts under way towards these ends;

3. *Underlines* the importance of determined efforts, especially by the nuclear-weapon States, to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States;

4. *Reaffirms* that all States have the right, as provided for, *inter alia*, in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under effective and non-discriminatory safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and underlines the importance of increased efforts in this field, particularly for the needs of the developing countries and areas;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of the technical assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the developing countries and areas of the world within an effective and comprehensive safeguards system, and emphasizes the urgent need for common efforts towards an essential increase of this assistance;

6. *Urges* States that as yet have not adhered to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the first instance, to do so at an early date or, at a minimum, to accept other arrangements involving the application of safeguards to their complete nuclear fuel cycle that would provide satisfactory assurances to the international community against the dangers of proliferation while guaranteeing to the States concerned unhindered and non-discriminatory access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of common efforts to study satisfactory arrangements for an adequate supply of nuclear fuels and other materials and facilities necessary to the efficient implementation and operation of national nuclear power programmes without jeopardizing the respective fuel cycle policies or international co-operation agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that agreed safeguard measures are applied;

8. *Solemnly affirms* the following principles:

(a) States should not convert civil nuclear materials or facilities to the production of nuclear weapons;

(b) All States have the right, in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality, to develop their programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear technology for economic and social development in conformity with their priorities, interests and needs and should have, without discrimination, access to, and be free to acquire, technology and materials for the peaceful

use of nuclear energy under effective and non-discriminatory safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

9. *Expresses its strong support* for the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to increase the effectiveness of its safeguards system in order to ensure that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

10. *Recognizes* the need adequately to ensure the physical protection of nuclear materials, facilities and transport;

11. *Requests* the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue the consideration of reaching an international agreement for such protection;

12. *Expresses its support* for the continuation of the studies by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the question of multinational fuel cycle centres and an international régime for plutonium management as possible means of promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the interests of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

13. *Requests* the International Atomic Energy Agency to report on the progress of its work on these questions to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977

G

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2602 A (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 relating to the initiation of bilateral negotiations between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapon systems,

Recalling also its resolutions 2932 B (XXVII) of 29 November 1972, 3184 A and C (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3261 C (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3484 C (XXX) of 12 December 1975 and 31/189 A of 21 December 1976,

Regretting the absence of definitive results during the last three years of those bilateral negotiations,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in his address to the General Assembly on 4 October 1977, the President of the United States of America stated, *inter alia*, the following:

“The United States is willing to go as far as possible, consistent with our security interests, in limiting and reducing our nuclear weapons. On a reciprocal basis we are willing now to reduce them by 10 per cent, 20 per cent or even 50 per cent. Then we will work for further reductions with a view to a world truly free of nuclear weapons.”;³⁶

2. *Notes with identical satisfaction* that, in his address to the Joint Session of the Supreme Soviet and Central Committee of the Communist Party on 2 November 1977, the President of the Supreme Soviet

³⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Plenary Meetings, 18th meeting, para. 15.*

of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated the following:

“Today we are proposing a radical step: that agreement be reached on a simultaneous halt in the production of nuclear weapons by all States. This would apply to all such weapons—whether atomic, hydrogen or neutron bombs or missiles. At the same time, the nuclear Powers could undertake to start the gradual reduction of existing stockpiles of such weapons and move towards their complete, total destruction.”;

3. *Stresses* the necessity and urgency that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America strive to implement as soon as possible the foregoing declarations of their respective heads of State and invites the Governments of both countries to adopt without delay all relevant measures to achieve that objective;

4. *Reiterates with special emphasis* its invitation to both Governments to keep the General Assembly informed in good time of the results of their negotiations and trusts to be able to receive from them appropriate information in this regard during the special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

32/88. Special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament³⁷

A

The General Assembly,

Gravely concerned that vast human and material resources are spent on armaments,

Reaffirming the need to allocate greater resources to economic and social progress, particularly having in mind the needs of the developing countries,

Firmly believing that a curtailment of expenditures on armaments in keeping with the objectives of the Disarmament Decade would facilitate the availability of greater resources for economic and social development, particularly to the developing countries,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the aforementioned matters and the specific studies carried out at its request,

Noting the declaration made by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, on this matter,³⁸

Noting also the proposal for a United Nations study presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament,³⁹

Sharing the view that decisions on concrete action would be facilitated through an in-depth analysis on the relationship between disarmament efforts and measures to achieve economic and social progress,

³⁷ See also sect. X.B.1, decision 32/403, and sect. X.B.2, decisions 32/423 A and B.

³⁸ See A/31/197.

³⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-10/1)*, vol. V, document A/AC.187/80.

1. *Endorses* the recommendation by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament that the General Assembly should initiate a study on the relationship between disarmament and development, the terms of reference of the study to be determined by the Assembly itself at its special session;⁴⁰

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint, at the earliest possible date, an *ad hoc* group of governmental experts with the task of elaborating a possible framework and terms of reference for the above-mentioned study;⁴¹

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the *Ad Hoc* Group on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development all the relevant materials, including proposals made by Member States, as well as previous and current United Nations studies on the subject;

4. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Group to report on its work not later than 1 April 1978;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the *Ad Hoc* Group to Member States not later than a month before the opening, on 23 May 1978, of the special session.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/189 B of 21 December 1976, in which it decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament,⁴²

1. *Endorses* the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament and the recommendation contained therein for the special session to be held between 23 May and 28 June 1978 in the General Assembly Hall;⁴³

2. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to continue its work in order to prepare a draft final document or documents for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its special session and to submit to the Assembly its final report;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the Preparatory Committee for their constructive contribution to its work;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to Member States the records of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly relating to the special session;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to render the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance as may be required for the completion of its work.

*100th plenary meeting
12 December 1977*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/32/41 and Corr.1)*, para. 32.

⁴¹ For the composition of the *Ad Hoc* Group on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, see A/S-10/9, annex.

⁴² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/32/41 and Corr.1)*.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, para. 19.