

38/184. Reduction of military budgets**A**

The General Assembly.

Deeply concerned about the ever-spiralling arms race and growing military expenditures, which constitute a heavy burden for the economies of all nations and have extremely harmful effects on world peace and security,

Reaffirming once again the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, according to which the gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis, for example in absolute figures or in terms of percentage, particularly by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, would contribute to curbing the arms race and would increase the possibilities for the reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.⁹⁸

Recalling that at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, all Member States unanimously and categorically reaffirmed the validity of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, as well as their solemn commitment to it,⁹⁹

Recalling also the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second United Nations Disarmament Decade,¹⁰⁰ in which it is provided that during this period renewed efforts should be made to reach agreement on the reduction of military expenditures and the reallocation of resources thus saved to economic and social development, especially for the benefit of developing countries,

Recalling further the provisions of its resolution 34/83 F of 11 December 1979, subsequently reaffirmed in its resolutions 35/142 A of 12 December 1980, 36/82 A of 9 December 1981 and 37/95 A of 13 December 1982, in which it considered that a new impetus should be given to the endeavours to achieve agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain, in a balanced manner, military expenditure, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned,

Aware of the various proposals submitted by Member States and of the activities carried out so far within the framework of the United Nations in the field of the reduction of military budgets,

Convinced that identification and elaboration of the principles which should govern further actions of States in freezing and reducing military budgets could contribute to harmonizing the views of States and create confidence among them conducive to achieving international agreements on the reduction of military budgets,

Considering that the identification and elaboration of the principles which should govern further actions of States in freezing and reducing military budgets and the other current activities within the framework of the United Nations related to the question of the reduction of military budgets should be regarded as having the fundamental objective of reaching international agreements on the reduction of military expenditures,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission on the work accomplished during its session in 1983 on the question of the reduction of military budgets,¹⁰¹

1. *Declares once again its conviction* that it is possible to achieve international agreements on the reduction of military budgets without prejudice to the right of all States to undiminished security, self-defence and sovereignty;

2. *Reaffirms* that the human and material resources released through the reduction of military expenditures could be reallocated to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular the most heavily armed States, to reinforce their readiness to cooperate in a constructive manner with a view to reaching agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain military expenditures;

4. *Appeals* to all States, in particular to the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue, at its 1984 substantive session, the consideration of the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets", including consideration of the suggestions of the Chairman of the working group,¹⁰² as well as other proposals and ideas on the subject-matter, with a view to further identifying and elaborating the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reduction of military expenditures, keeping in mind the possibility of embodying such principles in a suitable document at an appropriate stage;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets".

*103rd plenary meeting
20 December 1983*

B

The General Assembly.

Deeply concerned about the arms race and present tendencies to increase further the rate of growth of military expenditures, the deplorable waste of human and economic resources and the potentially harmful effects on world peace and security,

Considering that a gradual reduction of military expenditures on a mutually agreed basis would be a measure that would contribute to curbing the arms race and would increase the possibilities of reallocating resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries,

Convinced that such reductions could and should be carried out on a mutually agreed basis without detriment to the national security of any country,

Reaffirming its conviction that provisions for defining, reporting, comparing and verifying military expenditures will have to be basic elements of any international agreement to reduce such expenditures,

Recalling that an international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures has been introduced in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, and that annual reports on

⁹⁸ Resolution S-10/2, para. 89.

⁹⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, document A/S-12/32, para. 62.*

¹⁰⁰ Resolution 35/46, annex.

¹⁰¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/38/42), para. 23.*

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 42 (A/38/42), annex XIII.

military expenditures are now being received from a number of Member States,

Considering that a wider participation in the reporting system of States from different geographic regions and representing different budgeting systems would promote its further refinement and would, by contributing to greater openness in military matters, increase confidence between States,

Noting, in this connection, the proposal to convene an international conference on military expenditures,

Recalling its resolution 37/95 B of 13 December 1982, in which it requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts and with the voluntary co-operation of States, to undertake the task of constructing price indices and purchasing-power parities for the military expenditures of participating States,

Considering that a wide participation in this exercise is essential for achieving the most useful results possible,

Noting that in the progress report of the Secretary-General¹⁰³ the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets established that a direct contact between its members and the voluntarily participating Member States is vital for the work of the Group,

Emphasizing that all the above-mentioned activities and initiatives, as well as other ongoing activities within the United Nations relating to the reduction of military budgets, should have the fundamental objective of facilitating future negotiations aimed at the conclusion of international agreements on the reduction of military expenditures,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁰⁴ containing the replies received in 1983 from Member States in the framework of the above-mentioned reporting system and with the submitted data arranged by the Secretariat according to statistical practice, and of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁰⁵ containing views and suggestions of States on practical means of promoting the wider participation of States in the international system of standardized reporting of military expenditures;

2. *Stresses* the need to increase the number of reporting States with a view to the broadest possible participation of States from different geographic regions and representing different budgeting systems;

3. *Reiterates its recommendation* that all Member States should report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General, using the reporting instrument, their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available;

4. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General¹⁰³ on the ongoing exercise undertaken in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 37/95 B;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Member States to participate in the above-mentioned exercise;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets with sufficient financial and other resources to carry out its complex tasks as outlined in the progress report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets".

*103rd plenary meeting
20 December 1983*

38/185. 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 and 37/96 of 13 December 1982, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean,¹⁰⁶

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,

Recalling its decision, taken at its thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/80 B, to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo during 1981,

Recalling also its decision 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 the dates for its convening,

Recalling further its decision, taken at the thirty-seventh session in resolution 37/96, concerning the consideration of the convening of the Conference not later than the first half of 1984,

Recalling the exchange of views in the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1983,

Noting the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

Noting further the various documents before the *Ad Hoc* Committee,

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,

Considering that any other foreign military presence in the area, whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the active participation of and full co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and the

¹⁰³ A/38/354 and Corr.1.

¹⁰⁴ A/38/434.

¹⁰⁵ A/38/353 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

¹⁰⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).*