

43/75. General and complete disarmament

A

BILATERAL NUCLEAR-ARMS NEGOTIATIONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/18 of 18 November 1985, 41/86 N of 4 December 1986 and 42/38 D of 30 November 1987,

Recalling also the Harare Appeal on Disarmament,⁵³ adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, the Havana Appeal,⁵⁴ adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries at the special ministerial meeting devoted to disarmament issues held at Havana from 26 to 30 May 1988, and the final documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,⁵⁵

Gravely concerned about the continuing escalation of the arms race, especially in nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, despite the fact that this increases the risk of nuclear war and endangers the survival of humanity,

Convinced that the alternative today in the nuclear age is not between war or peace, but between life and death, which makes the prevention of nuclear war the principal task of our times,

Also convinced that international peace and security can be ensured only through general and complete disarmament under effective international control and that one of the most urgent tasks is to halt and reverse the arms race and to undertake concrete measures of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament,

Further convinced that, in the interest of mankind as a whole, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, in their bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations, should continue their endeavours with the ultimate objective of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the ratification and commencement of implementation by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of the Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,¹¹

Affirming that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament should facilitate and complement each other and that progress at the bilateral level should not be used to postpone or prohibit action at the multilateral level,

1. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to exert every effort to achieve the goal they set themselves of a treaty on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive arms as part of the process leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

2. Also calls upon the two Governments to intensify their efforts with the objective of achieving agreements in other areas, in particular the issue of a nuclear-test ban, as a matter of urgency;

3. Invites the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to keep the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarma-

ment duly informed of progress made in their negotiations.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

B

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly¹³ related to the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,⁵⁶

1. Requests the Secretary-General to take action through the appropriate organs, within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,⁵⁷ and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

C

PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/38 B of 30 November 1987,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1988 session and that of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament that deal with the question of radiological weapons, in particular the reports of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Radiological Weapons;⁵⁸

2. Recognizes that the *Ad Hoc* Committee in 1988 made a further contribution to the clarification and better understanding of different approaches that continue to exist with regard to both of the important subjects under consideration;

3. Takes note of the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Radiological Weapons should be re-established at the beginning of its 1989 session;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue its negotiations on the subject with a view to a prompt conclusion of its work, taking into account all proposals presented to the Conference to this end and drawing upon the annexes to its report as a basis of its fu-

⁵³ See A/41/697-S/18362, annex, sect. I.

⁵⁴ A/S-15/27 and Corr.1, annex II.

⁵⁵ A/43/667-S/20212, annex.

⁵⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 35.

⁵⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27)*, para. 86; and *ibid.*, *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2)*, para. 93.

ture work, the result of which should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all relevant documents relating to the discussion of all aspects of the issue by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

D

CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/38 E of 30 November 1987,

Welcoming the wide support expressed by Member States for greater attention to be given to conventional disarmament,

Also welcoming the increased awareness of the implications of many aspects of the conventional arms buildup, both in its qualitative and its quantitative aspect,

Taking into account that conventional disarmament is a necessary part of the disarmament process,

Recalling the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament,

Having examined the reports of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session⁵⁹ and at its forty-third session,³⁶

1. *Maintains* that the United Nations should continue to encourage and facilitate disarmament efforts in all fields;

2. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue at its 1989 session the substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session with a view to facilitating possible measures in the fields of conventional arms reduction and disarmament;

3. *Also requests* the Disarmament Commission for this purpose to include in the agenda for its 1989 session an item entitled "Substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament";

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

E

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/59 F of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 H of 30 November 1987,

Reaffirming the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war as expressed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the most acute and urgent task of the present day is to remove the threat of a world war—a nuclear war,

Recalling and reaffirming the statements and provisions on nuclear disarmament set forth in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³ and, in particular, provisions that "effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war have the highest priority", contained in paragraph 20, and that "in the task of achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament, all the nuclear-weapon States, in particular those among them which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, bear a special responsibility", contained in paragraph 48,

Bearing in mind that the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Noting that the leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America agreed in their joint statement issued at Geneva on 21 November 1985 that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought"⁶⁰ and the common desire they expressed in the same statement calling for early progress in areas where there is common ground, including the principle of a 50 per cent reduction in the nuclear arms of the Soviet Union and the United States appropriately applied,

Noting also that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have conducted intensive negotiations on various issues of disarmament,

Noting further that the Conference on Disarmament has not played its due role in the field of nuclear disarmament,

Believing that the qualitative aspect of the arms race needs to be addressed along with its quantitative aspect,

Bearing in mind that the Governments and peoples of various countries expect that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America will reach agreement on halting the nuclear-arms race and further reducing nuclear weapons,

1. *Welcomes* the signing and ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,¹¹ and calls upon the two States strictly to observe and fully to implement the Treaty;

2. *Urges* the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, further to discharge their special responsibility for nuclear disarmament, to take the lead in halting the nuclear-arms race and to negotiate in earnest with a view to reaching early agreement on the drastic reduction of their nuclear arsenals;

3. *Reiterates its belief* that bilateral and multilateral efforts for nuclear disarmament should complement and facilitate each other;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

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⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3).

⁶⁰ See A/40/1070, annex.

F

CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war as expressed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³ and particularly its paragraph 81, which provides that together with negotiations on nuclear disarmament measures, the limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons should be resolutely pursued within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament, and which stresses that States with the largest military arsenals have a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional armaments reductions,

Also recalling that in the same document it is stated, *inter alia*, that priorities in disarmament negotiations shall be: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons; conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects; and reduction of armed forces, and that it stresses that nothing should preclude States from conducting negotiations on all priority items concurrently,

Further recalling that in the same document it is stated that effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war have the highest priority, and that real progress in the field of nuclear disarmament could create an atmosphere conducive to progress in conventional disarmament on a world-wide basis,

Aware of the dangers to world peace and security originating from, and the loss in human life and property caused by, wars and conflicts fought with conventional weapons, as well as of their possible escalation into a nuclear war in regions with a high concentration of conventional and nuclear weapons,

Also aware that with the advance in science and technology, conventional weapons tend to become increasingly lethal and destructive and that conventional armaments consume large amounts of resources,

Believing that resources released through disarmament, including conventional disarmament, can be used for the social and economic development of people of all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Noting that the ongoing conventional disarmament negotiations in Europe have gained increasing importance,

Bearing in mind its resolution 36/97 A of 9 December 1981 and the *Study on Conventional Disarmament*⁶¹ conducted in accordance with that resolution, as well as its resolutions 41/59 C and 41/59 G of 3 December 1986, and 42/38 E and 42/38 G of 30 November 1987, and the consideration by the Disarmament Commission at its 1988 session of the question of conventional disarmament,⁶²

Bearing in mind also the efforts made to promote conventional disarmament and the related proposals and suggestions, as well as the initiatives taken by various countries in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the efforts aimed at resolutely pursuing the limitation and gradual reduction

of armed forces and conventional weapons within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament;

2. *Believes* that the military forces of all countries should not be used other than for the purpose of self-defence;

3. *Urges* the countries with the largest military arsenals, which bear a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional armaments reductions, and the member States of the two major military alliances to conduct negotiations on conventional disarmament in earnest through appropriate forums, with a view to reaching early agreement on the limitation and gradual and balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons under effective international control in their respective regions, particularly in Europe, which has the largest concentration of arms and forces in the world;

4. *Encourages* all States, while taking into account the need to protect security and maintain necessary defensive capabilities, to intensify their efforts and take, either on their own or in a regional context, appropriate steps to promote progress in conventional disarmament and enhance peace and security;

5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to consider further, at its 1989 substantive session, issues related to conventional disarmament;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

G

OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 105 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³ the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments and to concentrate on the danger of escalation of the arms race and on the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking into account the attention paid to the questions of openness and of ensuring an exchange of objective information in the military field at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

Noting with satisfaction that recent agreements in the field of arms limitation and disarmament have provided for qualitatively new standards of openness,

Believing that the adoption of confidence-building measures to promote openness and transparency would contribute to the prevention of misperceptions of military capabilities and intentions which would induce States to undertake armaments programmes leading to the acceleration of the arms race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and to heightened international tensions,

Believing also that balanced and objective information on all military matters, in particular of nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, would contribute to the building of confidence among States and to

⁶¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IX.1.

⁶² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3)*, para. 57.

the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements, and thereby help to halt and reverse the arms race,

Recognizing that greater openness and transparency would contribute to enhancing security,

Convinced that greater openness on military activities, *inter alia*, through transmittal of relevant information on these activities, including on the levels of military budgets, would contribute to increased confidence among States,

Taking into account the work undertaken in the Disarmament Commission on the reduction of military budgets,

Noting with satisfaction that an increased number of States have provided annual reports on military expenditures in conformity with the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures under the auspices of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;⁶³

2. *Reaffirms its firm conviction* that a better flow of objective information on military capabilities would help relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States on a global, regional or subregional level and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements;

3. *Recommends* that those States and global, regional and subregional organizations which have already expressed support for the principle of practical and concrete confidence-building measures of a military nature on a global, regional or subregional level should intensify their efforts with a view to adopting such measures;

4. *Recommends* that all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, should implement the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, with the aim of achieving a realistic comparison of military budgets, facilitating the availability of objective information on, as well as objective assessment of, military capabilities and contributing to the process of disarmament;

5. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1989 measures they have adopted towards these ends, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

6. *Also invites* all Member States also to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on ways and means of further consolidating the emerging trend towards greater openness in military matters, specifically with regard to the provisions of objective information on military matters, for consideration by the Disarmament Commission at its 1990 session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

H

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/38 J of 30 November 1987,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁶⁴

Recalling paragraph 115 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³ in which it is stated, *inter alia*, that the Assembly has been and should remain the main deliberative organ of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and should make every effort to facilitate the implementation of disarmament measures,

Mindful of the fact that the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament could be strengthened substantially through an increased effort by Member States to implement faithfully General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament,

Convinced of the importance of treating recommendations of the General Assembly in the field of disarmament with due respect in accordance with the obligations assumed by Member States under the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Deems it important* that all Member States make every effort to facilitate the consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, and thus show their resolve to arrive at mutually acceptable, comprehensively verifiable and effective disarmament measures;

2. *Invites* all Member States that have not yet done so to make available to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the situation with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in accordance with resolution 42/38 J, a report that includes information provided by Member States concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, as well as their views on possible avenues to improve the situation in this respect;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to render every assistance to the Secretary-General so that he may fulfil the request contained in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament at its forty-fourth session.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

I

INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in strengthening international peace and security and promoting disarmament,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Also bearing in mind the inherent right to self-defence embodied in Article 51 of the Charter,

⁶³ A/S-15/7 and Add.1 and 2.

⁶⁴ A/43/492 and Add.1-3.

Taking into account the general principles outlined in paragraph 22 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³

Also taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations studies entitled *Study on Conventional Disarmament*,⁶¹ *Study on all the Aspects of Regional Disarmament*,⁶⁵ *Study on the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures*,⁶⁶ *The Relationship between Disarmament and Development*,⁶⁷ *Reduction of Military Budgets*,⁶⁸ *Relationship between Disarmament and International Security*,⁶⁹ and *Comprehensive Study on Confidence-building Measures*,⁷⁰

Further taking into account the action programme set forth in the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,⁵⁷

1. Expresses its conviction that arms transfers in all their aspects deserve serious consideration by the international community, *inter alia*, because of:

(a) Their potential effects in areas where tension and regional conflict threaten international peace and security and national security;

(b) Their known and potential negative effects on the process of the peaceful social and economic development of all peoples;

(c) Increasing illicit and covert arms trafficking;

2. Requests Member States to consider, *inter alia*, the following measures relating to these concerns:

(a) Reinforcement of their national systems of control and vigilance concerning production and transport of arms;

(b) Examination of ways and means of refraining from acquiring arms additional to those needed for legitimate national security requirements, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region;

(c) Examination of the ways and means of providing for more openness and transparency with regard to worldwide arms transfers;

3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to take into account the above-mentioned matters in its deliberations on the issue of conventional disarmament;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and to collect all other relevant information for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to carry out thereafter, with the assistance of governmental experts, a study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis, also taking into consideration the views of Member States as well as other relevant information, including that on the problem of illicit arms trade, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to make available, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, information concerning the question of

arms transfers and their consequences for international peace and security;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "International arms transfers".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

J

PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/99 C of 13 December 1982, 38/188 D of 20 December 1983, 39/151 J of 17 December 1984, 40/94 D of 12 December 1985, 41/59 A and I of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 F of 30 November 1987 on, *inter alia*, the conclusion of an agreement prohibiting military attacks against nuclear facilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject submitted pursuant to resolution 42/38 F,⁷¹

Gravely concerned that armed attacks against nuclear facilities, though carried out with conventional weapons, could be tantamount to the use of radiological weapons,

Recalling also that Additional Protocol I⁷² of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949⁷³ prohibits attacks on nuclear electricity-generating stations,

Deeply concerned that the destruction of nuclear facilities by conventional weapons causes the release into the environment of huge amounts of dangerous radioactive material, which results in serious radioactive contamination,

Firmly convinced that the Israeli attack against the safeguarded nuclear facilities in Iraq constitutes an unprecedented danger to international peace and security,

Recalling further resolutions GC(XXVII)/RES/407 and GC(XXVII)/RES/409, adopted on 14 October 1983,⁷⁴ in which the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency urged all member States to support actions in international forums to reach an international agreement that prohibits armed attacks against nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes,

1. Reaffirms that armed attacks of any kind against nuclear facilities are tantamount to the use of radiological weapons, owing to the dangerous radioactive forces that such attacks cause to be released;

2. Requests once again the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further its efforts to reach, as early as possible, an agreement prohibiting armed attacks against nuclear facilities;

3. Requests again the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide the Conference on Disarmament with the technical studies that could facilitate the conclusion of such an agreement;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the pro-

⁶⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.2.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.89.IX.2.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.82.IX.1.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.86.IX.2.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.82.IX.4.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.82.IX.3.

⁷¹ A/43/622.

⁷² A/32/144, annex I.

⁷³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁷⁴ See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Twenty-seventh Regular Session, 10-14 October 1983*.

gress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988*

K

PROHIBITION OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/91 H of 16 December 1978, 34/87 D of 11 December 1979, 35/156 H of 12 December 1980, 36/97 G of 9 December 1981, 37/99 E of 13 December 1982, 38/188 E of 20 December 1983, 39/151 H of 17 December 1984, 40/94 G of 12 December 1985, 41/59 L of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 L of 30 November 1987, in which it requested the Conference on Disarmament, at an appropriate stage of the implementation of the Programme of Action set forth in section III of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³ and of its work on the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to consider urgently the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration,

Noting that the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament for 1988 included the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects" and that the programme of work of the Conference for both parts of its 1988 session contained the item entitled "Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament",⁷⁵

Recalling the proposals and statements made in the Conference on Disarmament on those items,⁷⁶

Considering that the cessation of production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and the progressive conversion and transfer of stocks to peaceful uses would be a significant step towards halting and reversing the nuclear-arms race,

Considering also that the prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices would be an important measure in facilitating the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and explosive devices,

Requests the Conference on Disarmament, at an appropriate stage of its work on the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to pursue its consideration of the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the General Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration.

*73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988*

L

NAVAL ARMAMENTS AND DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 38/188 G of 20 December 1983, by which it requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, to carry out a comprehensive study on the naval arms race,

Recalling also its resolution 40/94 F of 12 December 1985, by which it requested the Disarmament Commission to consider the issues contained in the study entitled *The Naval Arms Race*,⁷⁷ both its substantive content and its conclusions, taking into account all other relevant present and future proposals, with a view to facilitating the identification of possible measures in the field of naval arms reductions and disarmament, pursued within the framework of progress towards general and complete disarmament, as well as confidence-building measures in this field,

Recalling further its resolution 42/38 K of 30 November 1987, by which it requested the Disarmament Commission to continue, at its 1988 session, the substantive consideration of the question and to report on its deliberations and recommendations to the General Assembly not later than at its forty-third session,

Having examined the report of the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission on the substantive consideration of the question of the naval arms race and disarmament during the 1988 session of the Commission,⁷⁸ which met with the approval of all delegations participating in the substantive consultations and which, in their view, should be discussed at the forty-third session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report on the substantive consideration of the question of the naval arms race and disarmament by the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue, at its forthcoming session in 1989, the substantive consideration of the question and to report on its deliberations and recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

3. *Also requests* the Disarmament Commission to inscribe on the agenda for its 1989 session the item entitled "Naval armaments and disarmament";

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Naval armaments and disarmament".

*73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988*

M

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2660 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, in which it commended the Treaty on the Prohibi-

⁷⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27), paras. 6 and 8.*

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, sect. III.B.

⁷⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.3.

⁷⁸ A/CN.10/113.

tion 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,

Bearing in mind the provisions of article VII of that Treaty concerning the holding of review conferences,

Also bearing in mind that, in its Final Declaration,⁷⁹ the Second 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, held at Geneva from 12 to 23 September 1983, decided that a third review conference should be held at Geneva at the request of a majority of States parties not earlier than 1988 and not later than 1990,

Recalling also its resolution 38/188 B of 20 December 1983, in which it made an assessment of the outcome of the Second Review Conference,

Bearing in mind also all the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³

1. *Notes* that, following appropriate consultations, a preparatory committee for the Third 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 is to be established prior to holding a further review conference in 1989;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Review Conference and its preparation;

3. *Recalls* its expressed hope for the widest possible adherence to the Treaty.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

N

COMPREHENSIVE UNITED NATIONS STUDY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, in accordance with the Charter,

Recognizing that nuclear disarmament and arms limitation remain a priority objective and represent a central task of the international community,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons*,⁸⁰ which was submitted to the General Assembly in 1980,

Recognizing also that since then many important developments have taken place in the area of nuclear arms, including the continued qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems,

Noting the importance attached by the international community to the complete cessation of nuclear testing within the framework of an effective disarmament process,

Noting also the full-scale stage-by-stage talks on nuclear testing between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America,

Bearing in mind the critical importance of an early and significant reduction of nuclear arms and recent progress in this field,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled *Study on the Climatic and Other Global Effects of Nuclear War*,⁸¹ *Concepts of Security*⁸² and *Study on Deterrence*,⁸³

Convinced that a comprehensive United Nations study on new developments concerning different aspects of nuclear weapons would make a valuable contribution to the dissemination of factual information and to international understanding of the issues involved,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts and taking into account recent relevant studies, a comprehensive update of the *Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons* that provides factual and up-to-date information on and pays regard to the political, legal and security aspects of:

(a) Nuclear arsenals and pertinent technological developments;

(b) Doctrines concerning nuclear weapons;

(c) Efforts to reduce nuclear weapons;

(d) Physical, environmental, medical and other effects of use of nuclear weapons and of nuclear testing;

(e) Efforts to achieve a comprehensive nuclear-test ban;

(f) Efforts to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and their horizontal and vertical proliferation;

(g) The question of verification of compliance with nuclear-arms limitation agreements;

2. *Recommends* that the study, while aiming at being as comprehensive as possible, should be based on open material and such further information as Member States may wish to make available for the purpose of the study;

3. *Invites* all Governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General so that the objectives of the study may be achieved;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the final report to the General Assembly well in advance of its forty-fifth session.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

O

BILATERAL NUCLEAR-ARMS NEGOTIATIONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling that at their meeting at Geneva in November 1985 the leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America committed themselves to the objective of working out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth,⁶⁰

⁷⁹ See *Second 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, Final Document* (SBT/CONF.II/20) (Geneva, 1983), Part II.

⁸⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.11.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.89.IX.1.

⁸² *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.86.IX.1.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, Sales No. E.87.IX.2.

Taking note of the joint statement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America issued following meetings held in Moscow from 29 May to 1 June 1988,⁸⁴

Taking note with satisfaction of the report in the joint statement that a joint draft text of a treaty on reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms had been elaborated, through which process the two sides had recorded extensive and significant areas of agreement and detailed positions on remaining areas of disagreement,

Noting the importance of the verification procedures contained in the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles¹¹ as an example of the high standards of verification that are now achievable in arms control agreements, both bilateral and multilateral,

Believing that, through negotiations pursued in a spirit of flexibility and with full account taken of the security interests of all States, it is possible to achieve far-reaching and effectively verifiable agreements,

Firmly convinced that an early agreement in these negotiations, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments, would be of crucial importance for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Further convinced that the international community should encourage the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America in their endeavours, taking into account both the importance and complexity of their negotiations,

1. *Welcomes* the ratification by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of the Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles;

2. *Also welcomes* the successful commencement of the implementation of the provisions of that Treaty;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America to spare no effort in seeking, in accordance with the security interests of all States and the universal desire for progress towards disarmament, the attainment of all the agreed objectives in the negotiations, that is, the resolution of a complex of questions concerning space and strategic nuclear arms with all these questions considered and resolved in their interrelationship;

4. *Invites* the two Governments concerned to keep other States Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their negotiations, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly;¹³

5. *Expresses its firmest possible encouragement and support* for the bilateral negotiations and their successful conclusion.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

P

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES
AND CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE

The General Assembly,

Determined to achieve progress in disarmament,

Reaffirming the need for continued efforts to build confidence, to lessen the risk of military confrontation and to enhance mutual security,

Reaffirming also the great importance of increasing security and stability in Europe through the establishment of a stable, secure and verifiable balance of conventional armed forces at lower levels, as well as through increased openness and predictability of military activities,

Considering that further negotiations in the field of confidence- and security-building measures, as well as a new negotiation on conventional armaments and forces, both within the framework of the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, should promote the process of strengthening confidence, improving security and developing co-operation in Europe, thereby contributing to international peace and security,

1. *Welcomes* the progress achieved so far in the deliberations at Vienna on issues concerning the above-mentioned negotiations;

2. *Urges* Member States that will participate in the above-mentioned negotiations to contribute actively to the attainment of their objectives as agreed;

3. *Invites* all States to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures with a view to reducing the risk of confrontation and strengthening security, taking due account of their specific regional conditions.

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

Q

PROHIBITION OF THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES
FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/RES.1153(XLVIII) concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa, adopted on 25 May 1988 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-eighth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 1988,⁸⁵

Recalling resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/490 on the dumping of nuclear wastes, adopted on 23 September 1988 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-second regular session,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Determined to prevent all nuclear-waste dumping practices that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States,

⁸⁴ A/S-15/28, annex.

⁸⁵ See A/43/398, annex I.

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³

Aware of the in-depth consideration of the question of the dumping of radioactive wastes for hostile purposes in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1988 session,

1. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that no nuclear-waste dumping practices occur that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the International Atomic Energy Agency to establish a representative technical working group of experts with the objective of establishing an internationally agreed code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear wastes;

3. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiation for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the deliberate employment of nuclear wastes to cause destruction, damage or injury by means of radiation produced by the decay of such material;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

5. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session the developments on the ongoing negotiations on this subject.

*73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988*

R

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 39/151 G of 17 December 1984, 40/94 O of 12 December 1985, 41/59 O of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 O of 30 November 1987,

Bearing in mind that the primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security,

Reaffirming its conviction that genuine and lasting peace can be created only through the effective implementation of the security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and armed forces, by international agreement and mutual example, leading ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming that the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament,

Recognizing the need for the United Nations, in discharging its central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament, to play a more active role in the field of disarmament in accordance with its primary purpose under the Charter to maintain international peace and security,

Taking into account the part of the report of the Disarmament Commission relating to this question,⁸⁶ and noting the progress made in the consideration of the question at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the common desire expressed at its third special session devoted to disarmament on the necessity to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the increased reaffirmation of faith in the United Nations as an indispensable instrument for international peace and security,

1. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament as a matter of priority at its next substantive session, in 1989, with a view to the elaboration of concrete recommendations and proposals, as appropriate, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views and suggestions of Member States as well as the aforementioned documents on the subject;

2. *Also requests* the Disarmament Commission to submit its report on the subject, including findings, recommendations and proposals, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: report of the Disarmament Commission".

*73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988*

S

CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT ON A REGIONAL SCALE

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/94 A of 12 December 1985, 41/59 M of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 N of 30 November 1987,

Taking note of the final documents of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,⁸⁵

Reiterating the primary responsibility of the militarily significant States, especially nuclear-weapon States, for halting and reversing the arms race, and the priority assigned to nuclear disarmament in the context of the advances towards general and complete disarmament,

Drawing attention to the fact that together with negotiations on nuclear disarmament measures, conventional disarmament measures should be resolutely pursued, in the context of which conventional disarmament on a regional scale acquires urgency and renewed importance,

Affirming that regional or subregional arms limitation and disarmament processes complement and enhance global disarmament efforts,

Expressing its firm support for all regional and subregional peace and disarmament endeavours that take into account the characteristics of each region, as well as for unilateral measures to strengthen mutual confidence and assure the security of all States involved, making possible regional agreements on arms limitation in the future,

Emphasizing that the adoption of such disarmament measures should take place in an equitable and balanced

⁸⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3)*, para. 47.

manner in order to ensure the right of each State to security and that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage of this process,

Noting with satisfaction the positive trend towards the peaceful settlement of various regional and subregional conflicts and the important role played in that regard by the United Nations,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the initiatives towards arms limitation and disarmament adopted jointly or unilaterally by some countries at the regional and subregional levels, as well as at the systematic implementation of confidence-building measures, limitation of the acquisition of conventional weapons and the reduction of military spending, with a view to allocating the resources thus released to the socio-economic development of their peoples;

2. *Expresses its keen satisfaction* at efforts to bring about the peaceful solution of conflict situations and regional and subregional crises, which would facilitate setting in motion specific measures for conventional disarmament on a regional scale through negotiated agreements under strict and effective international control;

3. *Again expresses firm support* for the United Nations system, and for the Secretary-General in particular, in the efforts to find solutions to conflict situations, thereby reaffirming the primary role of the United Nations in promoting peace and disarmament, and for the strict observance of the principles and norms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to persevere in his current peace efforts in various areas of tension in the world;

5. *Requests* the United Nations to provide assistance to States and regional institutions that might request it with a view to establishing disarmament measures on a regional scale;

6. *Appeals* to all States to facilitate the progress of regional disarmament, refraining from any action, including the threat or use of force, that might impede the achievement of this objective;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale".

73rd plenary meeting
7 December 1988

T

DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/RES.1153(XLVIII), concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa, adopted on 25 May 1988 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-eighth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 1988,⁸⁵

Mindful of the serious concerns raised by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-eighth session concerning the grave implications that the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes could have on the national security of African countries,

Recalling resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/490 on the dumping of nuclear wastes, adopted on 23 September

1988 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-second regular session,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying the dumping of nuclear wastes and also the transboundary radiological consequences, which could have adverse implications on regional and international security and in particular on the security of the developing countries,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹³

Aware also of the consideration by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1988 session of the question of the dumping of radioactive wastes, which cause destruction, damage or injury by means of radiation produced by decay of such material,

1. *Condemns* all nuclear-waste dumping practices that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

2. *Expresses profound concern* regarding practices of dumping nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa, which have grave implications on the national security of African countries;

3. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that no radioactive waste is dumped in the territory of other States in infringement of their sovereignty;

4. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the dumping of radioactive wastes in the territory of other States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of the present item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session the developments on the ongoing negotiations on this subject;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation with relevant international organizations, on the dumping of radioactive wastes in all its aspects in Africa, including all steps taken or envisaged to monitor, control and put a halt to such activities, and to submit his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session an item entitled "Dumping of radioactive wastes".

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