

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled “Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions”.

*54th plenary meeting
4 December 1990*

45/50. Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/106 of 15 December 1989,

Reiterating its conviction that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is the highest-priority measure for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and for the achievement of the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling also its resolution 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, in which it noted with approval the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water,³ signed on 5 August 1963, and requested the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament⁶ to continue with a sense of urgency its negotiations to achieve the objectives set forth in the preamble to the Treaty,

Recalling further that more than one third of the parties to the Treaty have requested the Depositary Governments to convene a conference to consider an amendment that would convert the Treaty into a comprehensive test-ban treaty,

Reiterating also its conviction that such a conference will facilitate the attainment of the objectives set forth in the Treaty and thus serve to strengthen it,

Noting with satisfaction that the meeting for the organization of the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water was held in New York from 29 May to 8 June 1990, and taking note of the report of that meeting,⁹

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water will be held in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991;

2. *Calls upon* all parties to the Treaty to participate in, and to contribute to the success of, the Amendment Conference for the achievement of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban at an early date, as an indispensable measure towards implementation of their undertakings in the preamble to the Treaty;

3. *Reiterates its conviction* that, pending the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the nuclear-weapon States should suspend all nuclear-test explosions through an agreed moratorium or unilateral moratoria;

4. *Recommends* that arrangements be made to ensure that intensive efforts continue, under the auspices of the Amendment Conference, until a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is achieved;

⁸ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

⁹ PTBT/CONF/1.

5. *Recommends also* that the Amendment Conference establish a working group, or other means it deems appropriate, to study, *inter alia*, the organization of control, institutional mechanisms and legal aspects of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and to report its conclusions to the Conference;

6. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring adequate coordination among the various negotiating forums dealing with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled “Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water”.

*54th plenary meeting
4 December 1990*

45/51. Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Convinced also of the consequent urgent need for an end to the nuclear-arms race and the immediate and verifiable reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons,

Convinced further that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Noting concerns expressed about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing,

Recognizing the agreement on and signature of, in Washington on 1 June 1990, the verification protocols to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests,¹⁰ signed on 3 July 1974, and to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes,¹¹ signed on 28 May 1976, and looking forward to the conclusion of all ratification processes,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation 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 Missiles¹² and the agreement in principle on and further progress made towards a first treaty on significant reductions in their strategic nuclear forces, and urging the earliest possible conclusion of such a treaty,

Recalling the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/9627)*, annex II, document CCD/431.

¹¹ *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. I: 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.IX.2), appendix III.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989,⁷

Recalling also the proposals by the leaders of the Six-Nation Initiative¹³ to promote an end to nuclear testing,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve the discontinuance of all nuclear tests by all States in all environments for all time is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Reaffirming the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, and in this context welcoming the re-establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban in the Conference on Disarmament,

Taking note of the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events and the conduct of the second technical test concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data,¹⁴

Noting that the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water will be held in January 1991 to consider an amendment to extend the scope of the Treaty to include underground nuclear testing,

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of fundamental importance;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament, in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be concluded at an early date, to re-establish the *Ad Hoc* Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban at the beginning of its 1991 session to carry forward the work begun in the Conference in 1990, focusing on substantive work on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including structure and scope as well as verification and compliance;

3. *Also urges* the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take into account, in this context, the progress achieved by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including work on the routine exchange and use of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives or experiments by individual States and groups of States;

¹³ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984*, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985*, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex) and the Declaration issued on 22 May 1989 on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the launching of the Six-Nation Initiative (A/44/318-S/20689, annex).

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/45/27)*, para. 29.

(b) To encourage the widest possible participation by States in the technical test that is now under way concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data;

(c) To take immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of an international seismic monitoring network with a view to developing further a system for the effective monitoring and verification of compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(d) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including on-site inspections and an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

4. *Urges*:

(a) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, to agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to concluding a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;³

5. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on progress made;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

54th plenary meeting
4 December 1990

45/52. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988 and 44/108 of 15 December 1989 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,¹⁵

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they

¹⁵ Resolution S-10/2.