

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/41/28)



UNITED NATIONS

**REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: **FORTY-FIRST** SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 28 (A/41/28)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1986

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[25 July 1986]

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	1
II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE	5 - 12	2
III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	13 - 15	5

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 40/154 of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly, inter alia, renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee or, the World Disarmament Conference 1/ and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to maintain **close** contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their positions, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant **comments** and observations which might be made to the Committee, especially having in mind paragraph 122 of the **Final Document** of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2). The Assembly also requested the Committee to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-first session.
2. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:
Chairman: Hr. Nissanka Wijewardane (Sri Lanka)
Vice-Chairmen: •  Kazimierz Tomaszewski (Poland)
Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Barrios (Spain)
3. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics participated in the work of the Committee by virtue of paragraph 3 of **resolution 3183 (XXVIII)**. Under the **same** provision, China, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America maintained contact with the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman. The German Democratic Republic and Viet Nam attended meetings of the Committee as observers.
4. The Working Group established in 1974 continued to function. 2/

* See para. 6.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. In accordance with its mandate in paragraph 1 above, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions in 1986.
6. During the first session, the Ad Hoc Committee held four meetings from 7 to 11 April. At the first meeting of the session (90th meeting), the Committee was informed that Mr. Arturo Laclaustra (Spain) had completed his mission in New York and thus was unable to continue in his function as Rapporteur of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, elected by acclamation Mr. Pablo Barrios (Spain) as the new Rapporteur. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution made to its work by Mr. Arturo Laclaustra. Two posts of Vice-Chairmen remained vacant, pending further consultations.
7. During the second session, the Ad Hoc Committee held three meetings between 7 and 10 July.
8. During the two sessions, the Chairman and the representatives of the following States members of the Ad Hoc Committee and observers made statements: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also made statements.
9. Members of the Committee were fully aware of the positions previously expressed by the Governments of other States on the convening of a world disarmament conference.
10. The Working Group held two meetings on 8 and 9 July, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Barrios (Spain), and elaborated the draft of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
11. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 96th meeting on 10 July, considered and adopted its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.
12. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 40/154, the Ad Hoc Committee through its Chairman, maintained close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes and obtained the following updated indications of their positions:

China

China has always stood for the convening of an international conference to discuss disarmament. As early as 1963, China proposed to hold a world summit conference to discuss the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. The two super-Powers that possess the largest arsenals of both nuclear and conventional weapons are now stepping up their arms race, posing a grave threat to world peace and security. It is therefore a matter of utmost urgency to urge them by various means to reduce their armaments. If the majority of the Member States are in favour of a world conference to discuss how the two super-Powers should take the lead in drastically cutting their armaments, China will be ready to support the idea.

France

The position of France has not changed since last year with regard to a combination of circumstances that would be necessary to make the convening of a world disarmament conference possible. It notes that, in the current circumstances, there is no consensus on such a project.

Accordingly, France would have no objection to the Ad Hoc Committee examining the possibility of spacing out its meetings so as to take this persistent impasse into account.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union confirms its position of principle regarding the convening of a world disarmament conference.

The problem of war and peace is foremost among the problems facing mankind. The way to solve that problem is through disarmament, the elimination of nuclear weapons, and international co-operation. The Soviet Union is tireless in its efforts to improve the complex and tense international situation and to halt the arms race and save mankind from the impending threat of nuclear catastrophe.

Because of the quickening pace of the arms race and the danger that it may spread to new spheres, there is a need for immediate action to rectify the situation that is developing in the world and to establish a comprehensive system of security. There can now be no justification for a policy aimed at achieving military superiority and undermining existing arms-limitation agreements.

The idea of holding a world disarmament conference received broad international support, including support at the United Nations. The attempts by certain nuclear Powers to justify their negative attitude to a given question by references to the worsening international situation are unwarranted, precisely because in the present circumstances it would be very timely to convene such a world forum, which might work out effective ways and means of curbing the arms race and achieving genuine disarmament, in addition to presenting concrete and practical solutions which all States would be committed to implement.

For the short term, the Soviet Union has put forward some extremely important initiatives covering all possible areas relating to the curbing of the arms race and to disarmament, including a programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century. These Soviet proposals could provide a good basis for a constructive discussion of disarmament problems at a world disarmament conference.

For its part, the USSR is prepared, without any preconditions, to consider in a constructive spirit any other proposals which may be put forward by States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or by non-aligned and neutral States. This position is in response to the demands for a new philosophy suited to our nuclear age. We call on the other nuclear Powers to take a similarly constructive position and to avail themselves of the vast opportunities that would be offered by a world disarmament conference for negotiations on a whole range of disarmament problems.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Government of the United Kingdom believes that, in view of the present international climate, no useful purpose would be served by preparing for the holding of a world disarmament conference. The United Kingdom therefore continues to doubt the usefulness of further meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

United States of America

The United States continues to view a favorable international environment as an indispensable prerequisite for a successful world disarmament conference. However, convening such a conference at this time would be premature because of the lack of agreement within the international community on both the conditions necessary for a conference and the substantive issues that it would consider. An unsuccessful or inconclusive conference on this important subject would serve no useful purpose. Indeed, such a conference would place additional obstacles before ongoing international efforts to achieve deep, meaningful and verifiable reductions in the existing level of armaments. Under those circumstances, and in view of the budgetary crisis confronting the United Nations, the United States believes that the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference should suspend its activities until the political and financial climate improves sufficiently to permit a conference to be convened successfully.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Ad Hoc Committee reiterated that the idea of a world disarmament conference has received wide support by the membership of the United Nations, however, with varying degrees of emphasis on and differences concerning conditions and certain aspects related to the question of the convening of such a conference, including aspects related to the deteriorating international situation. It was also evident from the updated indications of positions of the nuclear-weapon States, as reflected in paragraph 12 of the present report, some of which confirm certain elements requiring careful consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, that no consensus with respect to the convening of a world disarmament conference under the present conditions has yet been reached among the nuclear-weapon States, whose participation in such a conference has been deemed essential by most States Members of the Organization.

14. Having regard for the important requirements of a world disarmament conference to be convened at the earliest appropriate time, with universal participation and with adequate preparator, the General Assembly should take up the question at its forty-first regular session for further consideration, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 36/91, adopted by consensus, in particular paragraph 1 of that resolution, and resolution 40/154, also adopted by consensus.

15. The General Assembly may wish to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and to request it to continue to maintain close contact with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon States in order to remain currently informed of their attitudes, as well as with all other States, and to consider any relevant comments and observations which might be made to the Committee.

Notes

1/ By its resolution 3183 (XXVIII) of 19 December 1973, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should consist of the following 40 non-nuclear-weapon States Members of the United Nations appointed by the President of the Assembly after consultation with all regional groups: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

2/ The composition of the Working Group is as follows: Burundi, Egypt, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Spain (Chairman) and Sri Lanka. Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic participated in the Working Group as observers.

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

يمكن الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع أنحاء العالم . استلم عنها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها أو اكتب إلى : الأمم المتحدة ، قسم البيع في نيويورك أو في جنيف .

如何购取联合国出版物

联合国出版物在全世界各地的书店和经销处均有发售。请向书店询问或写信到纽约或日内瓦的联合国销售组。

HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre libraire ou adressez-vous à : Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Наводите справки об изданиях в вашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.
