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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/79 of 7 December 1988.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting on 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely items 49 to 69 and 151. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 16 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.3 to 25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place from 2 to 17 November, and 30 November (see A/C.1/44/PV.26 to 41, and 53).
4. In connection with item 67, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/44/29).

(b) Letter dated 19 July 1989 from **the** Charge d'affaires **a.i.** of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at **Harare**, from 17 to 19 May 1989 (A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2);

(c) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the final documents of the Ninth *Conference* of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551-S/20870);

(d) Letter dated 26 October 1989 from the **Permanent** Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the **communiqué** adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Kuala Lumpur from 8 to 24 October 1989 (A/44/689-5/20921).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION **A/C.1/44/L.33** and Rev.1

5. **At** the 29th meeting, on 7 November 1989, the representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the **Ad Hoc** Committee on the Indian Ocean, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. 1/

6. On 30 October, **Yugoslavia**, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are **members** of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/C.1/44/L.33), which was introduced by its representative at the 31st meeting, on 8 November. The draft resolution read as follows;

"**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, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987, 43/79 of 7 December 1988 and other relevant **resolutions,**

"**Reaffirming** that **the** establishment of zones of peace in various regions of **the** world under appropriate conditions, clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law, contributes to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

"Recalling the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, **2/**

"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, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

"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,

"Considering that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area.. as envisaged in the Declaration,

"Recalling in particular paragraph 7 of resolution A/37/9 of 7 December 1988,

"Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean **2/** on the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean,

"Considering that the Ad Hoc Committee has accomplished to a great extent the preparatory work entrusted to it for the purpose of convening the Conference in 1990,

"1. **Takes note** of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean:

"2. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Ad Hoc Committee on the work it has done in preparing for the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean;

"3. **Reaffirms** its full support for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

"4. **Recalls** the Final Document contained in the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean; **3/**

"5. **Decides** that the Conference shall be structured in several stages;

2/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., chap. V.

"6. **Decides** to convene, in the first stage, the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 2 to 13 July 1990, with the objective of:

"(a) Reviewing the situation in the Indian Ocean area with particular reference to the continued dangers posed by the military presence of the great Powers, and also other foreign military presences, whenever they are contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

"(b) Considering the principal elements of the Indian Ocean as a Bone of peace as contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean as well as at the subsequent meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, taking into account all its relevant work;

"(c) Adopting a final document containing the principles, modalities, machinery and programme of action for the furtherance of the objectives of the zone of peace;

"(d) Recommending to the General Assembly the future role and functions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean bearing in mind its mandate as defined in the relevant resolutions;

"7. **Decides** that the Conference shall endeavour to adopt modalities and a programme of action embodying practical measures for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace in order to finalise an international agreement with binding arrangements;

"8. **Recommends** that the participation at the Conference shall be at the ministerial level;

"9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to invite:

"(a) All States to participate in the Conference;

"(b) Representatives of organizations that have a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices to participate as observers, in accordance with resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 31/152 of 20 December 1976;

"(c) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity to participate as observers, in accordance with resolution 3260 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

"(d) The United Nations Council for Namibia to participate in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/9 E of 4 November 1977;

"(e) The **specialized** agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as integrated organs of the United Nations, to be represented at the **Conference;**

"(f) Interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by **observers;**

"(g) Directly concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social **Council;**

"10. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference the reports and documentation of the **Ad Hoc** Committee and of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean on their work and all other relevant documentation of the General **Assembly;**

"11. **Invites** the Conference to take into account the reports and relevant documentation of the **Ad Hoc** Committee and of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean on their work and all other relevant documentation of the General Assembly

"12. **Requests** the Secretary-General to appoint a secretary-general of the Conference and provide **other necessary staff, services and other facilities,** including summary records for the **Conference;**

"13. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps including the provision of financial resources for the convening of the Conference;

"14. **Requests** the **Ad Hoc** Committee to hold a session during the first half of 1990 with a duration of two weeks in order to continue its preparatory work and submit a report directly to the Conference;

"15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the **Ad Hoc** Committee, including the provision of summary records, *in recognition of* its preparatory function:

"16. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the **Declaration** of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace' ."

7. The Secretary-General submitted a statement on the **programme budget** implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.66).

8. On 29 November, the sponsor submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/44/L.33/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by **Bulgaria** and the German **Democratic Republic**. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 53rd meeting, on 30 November,

9. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution (see A/C.1/44/PV.53).

10. At its 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution **A/C.1/44/L.33/Rev.1** by a recorded vote of 112 to 4, with 14 abstentions (see pars. 11). The voting was as follows;

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, **Brazil**, Brunei **Darussalam**, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, **Byelorussian** Soviet **Socialist** Republic, Cameroon, **Chile**, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, **Cyprus**, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, **Hungary**, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, **Jordan**, **Kenya**, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, **Madagascar**, **Malawi**, **Malaysia**, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, **Morocco**, Mozambique, **Myanmar**, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, **Tunisia**, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, **Viet** Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft **resolution**:

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, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987, 43/79 of 7 December 1988 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

Recalling the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 4/

Noting that the **Ad Hoc** Committee commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place on 13 July 1979, during its preparatory session in July 1989, 5/

Recalling paragraph 22 of the declaration on international security and disarmament of the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 6/

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, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also 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,

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and corrigendum).

5/ A/AC.159/SR.357; see also *ibid.*, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/44/29), chap. II, sect. C.

6/ See A/44/551-5/20870, annex.

Considering that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, from 2 to 13 July 1990,

Regretting that it is not possible to hold the Conference in 1990, as scheduled, in spite of the generous offer of the Government of Sri Lanka,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 7/

2. **Reaffirms** full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

3. **Reiterates and emphasizes its** decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;

4. **Renews** the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate)

5. **Notes with satisfaction** that, in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, considerable progress has been made by the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 1989 and that the Chairman of the Working Group submitted his report to the Ad Hoc Committee;

6. **Urges** the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions on substantive issues and principles, including those identified by the Chairman of the Working Group in his report dated 12 July 1989, 8/ with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference;

7. **Requests** the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1990, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/43/29).

8/ A/AC.159/L.93, annex.

convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1991 in consultation with the host country;

a. **Requests** the Chairman of the **Ad Hoc** Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

9. **Also requests** the Chairman of the **Ad Hoc** Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the *Conference*;

10. **Requests** the **Ad Hoc** Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the **Ad Hoc** Committee, including the provision of summary records, in **recognition** of its preparatory function.
