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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 46

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(on the report of the First Committee (A/45/760))

45/49. Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions

The General Assembly,

Recognizing in mind the highest priority which, in the sphere of disarmament, it has repeatedly assigned to the attainment of the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests,

Recalling that for over thirty years it has been examining this question, on which it has adopted more than seventy resolutions,

Taking into account the undertakings by the three depositary States of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, as well as the reiteration of this commitment in the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/

Recalling that the Secretary-General, addressing a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 12 December 1984, after appealing for a renewed effort towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty, emphasized that no single multilateral agreement could have a greater effect on limiting the further refinement of nuclear weapons

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

2/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

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and that a comprehensive test-ban treaty is the litmus test of the real willingness to pursue nuclear disarmament, 2/

Recalling also that the leaders of the States associated with the Six-Nation Initiative on peace and disarmament affirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, adopted on 21 January 1988, 4/ that "Any agreement that leaves room for continued testing would not be acceptable",

Recalling further the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 5/ which underlined that the immediate suspension of and comprehensive ban on nuclear tests remained one of the highest priorities of nuclear disarmament,

Taking note with satisfaction of the continuing progress made in the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on the seismic verification of a comprehensive test ban,

Taking note of the re-establishment, without a negotiating mandate, of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban by the Conference on Disarmament at its summer session in 1990,

1. Reiterates once again its grave concern that nuclear testing continues unabated, against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States;
2. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States for all time is a matter of the highest priority;
3. Reaffirms also its conviction that such a treaty would constitute a contribution of the utmost importance to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race;
4. Urges once more all nuclear-weapon States, in particular the three depositary States of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to expedite negotiations to this end;

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 97th meeting, para. 302.

4/ A/43/125-S/19478, annex.

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

5. Appeals to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to promote the re-establishment by the Conference at the beginning of its 1991 session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban with the objective of carrying out the multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions;

6. Recommends to the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Committee should comprise two working groups dealing, respectively, with the following interrelated questions: contents and scope of the treaty, and compliance and verification;

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