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36/81. Second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

A

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SESSION

The General Assembly,

Recalling section III of its resolution 33/71 H of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

Having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament,¹

1. *Endorses* the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament and the recommendations contained therein for the session to be held in New York from 7 June to 9 July 1982;

2. *Endorses also* the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee to meet in New York from 26 April to 14 May 1982 in order to continue consideration of substantive issues related to the session, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, for incorporation in the document or documents to be adopted at the second special session devoted to disarmament, and any remaining organizational and procedural matters;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the Preparatory Committee for their constructive contribution to its work;

4. *Invites* Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, not later than 31 March 1982, further views on the substantive issues related to the second special session devoted to disarmament, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session;

5. *Requests* all Member States engaged in bilateral, regional or multilateral negotiations on disarmament issues outside the framework of the United Nations to submit appropriate information on such negotiations to the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final

Document of the Tenth Special Session of the Assembly,² before the second special session devoted to disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render to the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance for the completion of its work.

*91st plenary meeting
9 December 1981*

B

PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race,

Recalling that removal of the threat of a world war—a nuclear war—is the most acute and urgent task of the present day,

Reiterating that it is the shared responsibility of all Member States to save succeeding generations from the scourge of another world war,

Recalling the provisions of paragraphs 47 to 50 and 56 to 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,² the first special session devoted to disarmament, regarding procedures designed to secure the avoidance of nuclear war,

Considering that prevention of nuclear war and reduction of the risks of nuclear war are matters of the highest priority, which should be considered by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Reiterating the vital interest of all the peoples of the world in disarmament,

Aware of the special responsibility of nuclear-weapon States,

1. *Urges* all nuclear-weapon States to submit to the Secretary-General by 30 April 1982, for consideration at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, their views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war;

2. *Invites* all other Member States that so desire to do likewise;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to dis-

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/36/49 and Corr.1).

² Resolution S-10/2.

armament a report containing the views, proposals and practical suggestions referred to in paragraph 1 above, as well as those received from other Member States.

*91st plenary meeting
9 December 1981*

36/82. Reduction of military budgets

A

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the ever-spiralling arms race and growing military expenditures, which constitute a heavy burden for the economies of all nations and have extremely harmful consequences for international peace and security,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, according to which gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis, for example, in absolute figures or in terms of percentage points, particularly by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, would be a measure that would contribute to the curbing of the arms race and increase the possibilities of reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries,³

Reaffirming that it is possible to achieve continued and systematic reductions in military budgets without affecting the military balance to the detriment of the national security of any State,

Recalling its resolution 34/83 F of 11 December 1979, in which it considered that a new impetus should be given to endeavours to achieve agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain, in a balanced manner, military expenditures, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned,

Recalling also the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade,⁴ which provides that during this period renewed efforts should be made to reach agreement on the reduction of military expenditures and the reallocation of resources thus saved to economic and social development especially for the benefit of developing countries,

Recalling further its resolution 35/142 A of 12 December 1980, in which it requested the Disarmament Commission to continue at its session to be held in 1981 the consideration of the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets" and, in particular, to identify and elaborate on the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, keeping in mind the possibility of embodying such principles into a suitable document at an appropriate stage,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission⁵ on the work accomplished during its session in 1981 and taking into account the proposals and ideas submitted by Member States concerning the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, and which are contained in the working document annexed to the Commission's report,

Aware of the various proposals submitted by Member States and of the activities carried out so far within the framework of the United Nations in the field of the reduction of military budgets,

Considering that the identification and elaboration of the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military budgets and the other current activities within the framework of the United Nations related to the question of the reduction of military budgets should be regarded as having the fundamental objective of reaching international agreements on the reduction of military expenditures,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reinforce the endeavours of all States and international action in the area of the reduction of military budgets, with a view to reaching international agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain military expenditures;

2. *Reiterates* the appeal to all States, in particular the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue at its session to be held in 1982 the consideration of the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets", taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/142 A as well as those of the present resolution and other relevant proposals and ideas, with a view to identifying and elaborating on the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of the freezing and reduction of military expenditures, keeping in mind the possibility of embodying such principles into a suitable document at an appropriate stage;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets".

*91st plenary meeting
9 December 1981*

B

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the arms race, its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security and its deplorable waste of human and economic resources,

Alarmed by present tendencies to increase further the rate of growth of military expenditures,

Considering that gradual reductions of military expenditures on a mutually agreed basis would be a measure that would contribute to curbing the arms race and would increase the possibilities of reallocating resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries,

Convinced that such reductions could and should be carried out on a mutually agreed basis without affecting the military balance to the detriment of the national security of any State,

Reaffirming its conviction that provisions for comparability and verification will have to be basic elements of any agreement to reduce military expenditures,

Recalling the fact that these matters are being studied by the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, and that this Group is expected to submit its report before the second special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held from 7 June to 9 July 1982,

Recalling further that a standardized system for international reporting of military expenditures has been rec-

³ *Ibid.*, para. 89.

⁴ Resolution 35/46, annex.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/36/42).*