**49/85. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 47/54 G of 8 April 1993 and 48/87 of 16 December 1993,

*Recalling* its decision 48/499 of 14 September 1994,

*Desiring* to enhance the effectiveness of its First Committee in fulfilling its role and responsibility in the sphere of disarmament and international security,

*Stressing* the need to organize the work of the First Committee in the most rational and effective way possible,

*Recognizing* the need to allow adequate time, during the annual sessions, to conduct intensive and focused consultations on the items under consideration in the First Committee,

*Encouraged* by the thematic approach adopted by the First Committee in the second phase of its work during the forty-ninth session,

1. *Decides* to adopt for the proceedings of the First Committee, pursuant to the thematic approach set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 48/87, a phased approach with respect to the items on the agenda of the Committee, as follows:

   (a) General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items;

   (b) Informal thematic discussion of specific items under consideration in the First Committee;

   (c) Consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items;

   (d) Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items;

   (e) General debate, consideration of and action on draft resolutions submitted under the item entitled "Question of Antarctica";

2. *Also decides* that the number of meetings of the First Committee during the regular session of the General Assembly shall be recommended by the members of the Bureau of the First Committee after consultations with delegations and the Secretariat;

3. *Requests* the incoming Chairman of the First Committee to continue consultations on the further rationalization of the work and effective functioning of the Committee;

4. *Requests* the First Committee to keep under review the programme of work adopted under paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General, from within existing resources, to allocate appropriate support and a higher proportion of available conference space to the First Committee during the fiftieth session to enable it adequately to implement its work programme;

6. *Decides* to review at its fiftieth session the question of further rationalization and improvement of the work of the First Committee.

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**90th plenary meeting 15 December 1994**

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**49/86. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

*Recalling also,* in particular, its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, *inter alia,* the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 6 of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

*Recalling further* its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint, 68 agreed to by consensus at its last meeting at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

*Noting with satisfaction* that there are more than one hundred and thirty States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 69 including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

*Bearing in mind* its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, 69 and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

*Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation 61 and the related provisions of the Final Document of the Third Review Conference, the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts and the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, 62*

1. *Notes* that a majority of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction requested the depositary Powers to convene a special conference in order to consider the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint;

2. *Welcomes* the final report of the Special Conference of States Parties to the Convention, adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective shall be——

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61 See BWC/CONF.III/23.
63 Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
64 BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.
65 See resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex, article X.
66 BWC/SPCONF/I.