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Agenda item 90

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Archil **Gheghechkori** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty” was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 65/39 of 8 December 2010.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, 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 3rd meeting, on 3 October 2011, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 87 to 106. The general debate on those items was held at the 3rd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and on 10 and 11 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.3-9). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 10th to 20th meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Action on all draft resolutions and decisions was taken at the 21st to 24th meetings, from 26 to 28 and on 31 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.21-24).
4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.



II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.51

5. At the 12th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty” (A/C.1/66/L.51). Subsequently, Australia, Chile, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand and Nicaragua joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.51 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

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

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,² which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,³ affirming that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ on 15 July 2009;

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty¹ that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;

4. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

5. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁴ that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards

¹ See A/50/426, annex.

² A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

³ S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;⁵

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty”.

⁵ Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards (International Atomic Energy Agency, document INFCIRC/540 (Corrected)).