Seventy-fifth session
Agenda item 94

Reduction of military budgets

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. María del Rosario Estrada Girón (Guatemala)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Reduction of military budgets” and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 6 October 2020, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in two phases: the first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 94 to 110, and the second phase would be action on all draft proposals. In the absence of thematic discussions, the Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects.

3. At its 2nd to 10th meetings, on 9 and 12, from 14 to 16 and on 19 October, the Committee held a general debate, during which draft resolutions and decisions were introduced. On 13, 26 and 30 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, and independent experts and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 11th to 15th meetings, on 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 November.1

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (A/75/140).

5. No proposals were submitted, and no action was taken by the Committee under this item.

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