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Agenda item 50

STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Kedar Bhakta SHRESTHA (Nepal)

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) of 12 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, 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 2nd meeting, on 5 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 34 to 50 and 116. The general debate on these items took place at the 20th to 39th meetings, from 1 to 19 November.
4. In connexion with agenda item 50, the First Committee had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament. 1/
5. On 11 November, Austria, Grenada, New Zealand, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.11) which was subsequently also sponsored by Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The draft resolution was

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/31/36).

introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 32nd meeting, on 15 November. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General on 23 November (A/C.1/31/L.23).

6. On 23 November, amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.11 were submitted by India and Nigeria (A/C.1/31/L.24), which were subsequently also sponsored by Mauritius. On 30 November, a revised draft resolution was submitted (A/C.1/31/L.11/Rev.1). The amendments contained in document A/C.1/31/L.24 were not pressed to the vote.

7. At the 48th meeting, on 1 December, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.11/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3484 B (XXX) of 12 December 1975 in which it decided to carry out a review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament has carried out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the aforementioned resolution,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, which contains, inter alia, a set of agreed proposals with regard to the following subjects:

- (a) Improved methods of work of the First Committee in disarmament matters;
- (b) Relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament;
- (c) Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission;
- (d) Role of the United Nations in providing assistance on request in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations;
- (e) Relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;

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- (f) Increased use of in-depth studies of the arms race, disarmament and related matters;
- (g) Improvement of existing United Nations facilities for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament;
- (h) Assistance by the Secretariat, on request, to States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate reviews;
- (i) Strengthening of the resources of the Secretariat; 2/

Recognizing the vital interest of all States of the world, including developing States, in contributing to the cause of disarmament,

1. Endorses the agreed proposals made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament as a step towards the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament;
2. Decides to keep the question of the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament under continued review;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to implement as soon as possible the measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee falling within his area of responsibilities, bearing in mind the importance of recruiting the staff for the proposed Centre for Disarmament on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.
4. Urges Member States to make all efforts to realize the objectives set out in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

2/ Ibid., para. 18.