

REPORT
OF THE
***AD HOC* COMMITTEE**
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/37/29)



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 36/90 of 9 December 1981, the General Assembly, after noting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 1/ and the exchange of views in the Committee, expressed its regret that the Committee had failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1981, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean; emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971; emphasized also, in pursuance of that decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference; requested the Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues, including those set forth in paragraph 4 of the resolution, and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1983; renewed the mandate of the Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; requested the Committee to hold further sessions in 1982 of a total duration of six weeks, including the holding of a Meeting, at a venue outside New York to be decided upon; and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-seventh session reports on its work and on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to resolution 36/90, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions, from 1 to 12 March (A/AC.159/SR.169-182) and from 20 to 28 May 1982 (A/AC.159/SR.185-190), at United Nations Headquarters in New York, one session from 3 to 20 August (A/AC.159/SR.191-197) at the United Nations Office at Geneva and one additional formal meeting on 23 November 1982 (A/AC.159/SR.198) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 30 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1982.

3. At present, the Committee is composed of the following 46 member States:

Australia	Italy
Bangladesh	Japan
Bulgaria	Kenya
Canada	Liberia
China	Madagascar
Democratic Yemen	Malaysia
Djibouti	Maldives
Egypt	Mauritius
Ethiopia	Mozambique
France	Netherlands
German Democratic Republic	Norway
Germany, Federal Republic of	Oman
Greece	Pakistan
India	Panama
Indonesia	Poland
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Romania
Iraq	Seychelles
Singapore	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Somalia	

Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics

United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B, Sweden continued to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka);

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Susan Boyd (Australia);
Mr. Izhar Ibrahim (Indonesia);
Mr. Siegfried Kahn (German Democratic Republic);
Mr. José Carlos Lobo (Mozambique);

Rapporteur: Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar).

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1982 (A/AC.159/L.42), was adopted by the Committee at its 173rd meeting on 4 March 1982, on the understanding, as made clear in the Chairman's statement at the preceding meeting, that substantive issues would be taken up before consideration of organizational issues and that adequate time would be devoted to substantive issues without precluding sufficient work on organizational matters:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/90:
 - (a) Work on the substantive and organizational issues related to the Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 36/90, including consideration of 1983 Conference dates;
 - (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament;
 - (c) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
5. Other matters.

B. Preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean

6. During 10 meetings from 8 to 12 March 1982 (173rd to 182nd meetings), the Committee undertook an exchange of views under item 4 of its agenda in accordance with the understanding referred to above. On the one hand, the discussions revealed a strong feeling that the Committee should proceed without delay to practical preparations for the Conference and make every effort to complete the necessary preparations for holding the Conference not later than the first half of 1983, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971. On the other hand, it was emphasized by some delegations that the lack of real progress on the harmonization of views and the prevailing political and security climate in the region were not conducive, at this stage, to the convening of the Conference.

7. At the 178th meeting of the Committee, on 9 March, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of Bulgaria, introduced a working paper entitled "Conception for a possible structure and procedure of the Conference on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.43).

8. During five meetings from 25 to 28 May 1982 (186th to 190th meetings), the Committee resumed the exchange of views under item 4 (a).

9. At the 186th meeting of the Committee, on 25 May, the delegation of Australia, on its own behalf and that of the delegations of Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a paper entitled "Proposal for a set of principles on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/AC.159/L.44).

10. During five formal meetings from 5 to 16 August 1982 (192nd to 196th meetings) as well as during a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued the exchange of views under item 4 (a).

C. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session

11. At its 182nd meeting, on 12 March, the Rapporteur introduced a working paper (conference room paper 1982/1 and Add.1-3) containing a draft of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament pursuant to resolution 36/90. The Chairman undertook informal consultations on that draft during the intersessional period. At its 183rd to 190th meetings and in the course of informal meetings held between 20 and 28 May, the Committee considered the revised draft report (conference room paper 1982/2) and, at its 190th meeting, adopted its report to the Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament. 2/

D. New applications for participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee

12. In the course of the year the Ad Hoc Committee has received applications by the following countries for participation in its work: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam. The Committee was unable, in the time available, to reach consensus on those applications, and informal consultations are still in progress on the subject.

13. At the 197th meeting, on 20 August, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a working paper entitled "Working paper on the participation of non-member States of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in the work of the Committee" (A/AC.159/L.48).

E. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session

14. The Committee's draft report (A/AC.159/L.46) was introduced to the Committee by its Rapporteur, Mr. Henri Rasolondraibe (Madagascar), at its 195th meeting, on 11 August, and the Committee began meeting informally to consider its draft report.

15. At the 196th meeting, on 16 August, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced a draft resolution on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.47).

16. At the 197th meeting, on 20 August, the representative of Australia, on behalf of a number of like-minded delegations introduced document A/AC.159/L.49, which contained a draft resolution.
17. On 18 August, the Committee began meeting informally as a drafting group to consider its recommendation to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
18. At the 198th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee adopted by consensus its report to the General Assembly contained in documents A/AC.159/L.46/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, as amended.

III. RECOMMENDATION

19. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980 and 36/90 of 9 December 1981, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that, at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, it stated that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole, 3/

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 4/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Recalling its decision at the thirty-fourth session, in resolution 34/80 B, to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo during 1981,

Recalling further its decision at the thirty-fifth session, in resolution 35/150, to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, particularly recent developments, as well as the progress made in the harmonization of views, to finalize, in accordance with its normal methods of work, all preparations for the Conference, including the dates for its convening,

Recalling the exchange of varied views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1982 and noting that, while some progress has been made, a number of issues remain to be resolved,

Noting also the exchange of views on the adverse political and security climate in the region,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the dates for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo,

Convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Considering that all other foreign military presence in the area, whenever it is contrary to the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, further gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering also that the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean requires the active participation of and full co-operation among the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to ensure conditions of peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the general principles of international law,

Considering further that the creation of a zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland States,

Calling for the renewal of genuinely constructive efforts through the exercise of the political will necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace,

Deeply concerned at the danger posed by the grave and ominous developments in the area and the resulting sharp deterioration of peace, security and stability which particularly seriously affect the littoral and hinterland States, as well as international peace and security,

Convinced that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area is an important consideration bearing on the question of the early convening of the Conference and that the easing of tension in the area would enhance the prospect of success being achieved by the Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 5/ and the exchange of views in the Committee;
2. Regrets that the Ad Hoc Committee has failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and takes note of the views expressed relating to the need for convening of the Conference during the first half of 1984;
3. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference at Colombo as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;
4. Emphasizes also, in pursuance of that decision and in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, its decision to request the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work on the necessary harmonization of views on the relevant issues, including those set forth in paragraph 4 above and to make every effort to accomplish the necessary preparatory work for the Conference, including consideration of its convening not later than the first half of 1984;

6. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three further sessions in 1983 of a duration of two weeks each, with the possibility of holding a fourth session to be considered as required;

8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/36/29).

2/ Ibid., Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/S-12/5).

3/ Resolution S-10/2, para. 64.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

5/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).

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