

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/38/29)



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[1 December 1983]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 37/96 of 13 December 1982, the General Assembly, after taking note of 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 Ad Hoc Committee had failed to reach consensus on the finalization of dates for the convening, during 1983, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, and took note of the views expressed relating to the need for the convening of the Conference during the first half of 1984; emphasized 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; 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 Ad Hoc Committee to continue its efforts for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues related to the convening of the Conference; requested 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 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 1984; renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions; requested 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; requested 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 that matter at the earliest possible date; and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a full report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to resolution 37/96, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions, from 31 January to 9 February (A/AC.159/SR.199-209), from 11 to 22 April (A/AC.159/SR.210-219), from 12 to 22 July (A/AC.159/SR.220-228), and two additional meetings on 15 and 30 November (A/AC.159/SR.229-230), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 32 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1983.

3. Following the appointment of the United Arab Emirates as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee by the President of the General Assembly on 11 May 1983 (A/37/811), the Committee is composed of the following 47 member States:

Australia	Indonesia
Bangladesh	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bulgaria	Iraq
Canada	Italy
China	Japan
Democratic Yemen	Kenya
Djibouti	Liberia
Egypt	Madagascar
Ethiopia	Malaysia
France	Maldives
German Democratic Republic	Mauritius
Germany, Federal Republic of	Mozambique
Greece	Netherlands
India	Norway

Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan

Thailand
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
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. Daniel Assa Nhaguilunguana (Mozambique)
and his predecessor, Mr. José Carlos Lobo (Mozambique);

Rapporteur: Mr. André Tahindro (Madagascar) and his predecessor,
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 1983 (A/AC.159/L.52), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 203rd meeting, on 4 February 1983:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/96:
 - (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 37/96, including consideration of 1984 Conference dates;
 - (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.
5. Other matters.

6. At the same meeting, the Chairman announced that, in accordance with an understanding reached in the Committee, the following statement should be considered an integral part of the agenda itself:

"Following a general exchange of views, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean will meet in formal and informal sessions as it considers appropriate to accomplish the necessary substantive and organizational preparatory work for the Conference. The substantive issues related to the zone of peace, taking into consideration the aspects in the informal list of topics as mentioned in paragraph 21 of document A/35/29, will be taken up before consideration of organizational issues and adequate time will be devoted to substantive issues without precluding sufficient work on organizational matters. In accordance with its normal methods of work the Committee will give consideration to all documents placed before it by its members."

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

7. During seven formal meetings, from 4 to 9 February (203rd-209th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee undertook an exchange of views under item 4 of its agenda in accordance with the understanding referred to above.

8. At the 203rd meeting of the Committee, on 4 February, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a document entitled "Excerpt from the Political Declaration of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty adopted at the session of the Political Consultative Committee held at Prague on 4 and 5 January 1983" (A/AC.159/L.50).

9. At the 204th meeting, on 7 February, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced a document entitled "Excerpt from the statement made by the head of the USSR delegation to the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. A. A. Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly" (A/AC.159/L.51).

10. At the 206th meeting, on 8 February, 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 structure of the second stage of the Conference on the Indian Ocean (Explanatory memorandum to working paper A/AC.159/L.43)" (A/AC.159/L.53).

11. At the 211th meeting, on 13 April, the representative of Egypt introduced a working paper entitled "Nucleus of safeguards to govern the conduct and work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean" (A/AC.159/L.54).

12. During eight formal meetings, from 14 to 22 April (212th-219th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee resumed the exchange of views under item 4 (a). In this connection, the Committee decided to have a discussion on the basis of the informal list of topics referred to in paragraph 21 of document A/35/29, with the provision for delegations to address the topics individually or collectively in an interrelated manner.

13. At its 217th meeting, on 20 April, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a new document containing the views expressed by member States on the basis of the informal list of topics referred to in paragraph 21 of document A/35/29 and submitted to the Secretariat in reply to a letter to be transmitted by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of soliciting such views. In this connection, the Secretariat would classify the written submissions under appropriate headings. Subsequently, on 29 April, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee sent a letter to the members of the Committee requesting them to submit their views on the relevant aspects referred to above. The views of member States were incorporated into a background paper entitled "Views expressed by member States of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean on the basis of the informal list of topics referred to in paragraph 21 of its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session" (A/AC.159/L.55 and Add.1-5).

14. At its 219th meeting, on 22 April, the Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare an updated version of the background paper entitled "Resolutions, declarations and final communiqués related to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/AC.159/L.17). It was agreed that, in compiling the updated document, the Secretariat should follow the same guidelines that had been used in compiling document A/AC.159/L.17. The Committee decided to request the Chairman to continue his consultations on the final contents of the document, in accordance with the decision of the Committee on this matter.

15. During nine formal meetings, from 12 to 22 July (220th-228th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued the exchange of views under item 4 (a).

16. Many delegations were of the view that the continued deterioration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area had established the urgency for the early convening of the conference, and that the early establishment of a zone of peace as contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 would, inter alia, contribute to strengthening the security of States within the zone and to international peace and security as a whole. Other delegations took the view, however, that until the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining issues had been achieved, and until there was closer agreement on the scope and nature of a zone of peace, and on how the conference would contribute to its establishment, the setting of conference dates was premature, and that the prevailing political and security climate in the region prejudiced the likelihood of success of any such conference.

17. At the 224th meeting, on 15 July, the delegation of Sri Lanka, on behalf of its Government, informed the Ad Hoc Committee that the Government of Sri Lanka was ready to host the Conference on the Indian Ocean from 4 to 22 June 1984, at Colombo.

18. At its 228th meeting, on 22 July, the delegation of Australia, on its own behalf and that of the delegation of the United States of America, introduced a working paper entitled "ANZUS Council-Communiqué agreed in Washington, D.C., on 19 July 1983 between the ANZUS partners: Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America" (A/AC.159/L.58).

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

19. In a letter dated 8 December 1982, the United Arab Emirates applied for membership in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. At its 219th meeting, on 22 April, the Committee decided to transmit a recommendation to the President of the General Assembly for the appointment of the United Arab Emirates as a member of the Committee under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/80 B. Subsequently, by a communication dated 11 May 1983, the President of the General Assembly informed the Secretary-General that, on the basis of that recommendation, he had appointed the United Arab Emirates as an additional member of the Committee (A/37/811).

20. In the course of the year the Ad Hoc Committee received applications from the following countries for participation in its work: Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Hungary, Mongolia and Viet Nam. The Committee was unable, in the time available, to reach consensus on those applications and, in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 37/96, the Chairman is still continuing his consultations on that subject.

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

21. The Committee's draft report (A/AC.159/L.56) was introduced to the Committee by its Rapporteur, Mr. André Tahindro (Madagascar), at its 225th meeting, on 19 July, and the Committee began meeting informally to consider its draft report.

22. At the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced a draft resolution on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/L.57).

23. On 26 July, the Committee began meeting informally as a drafting group to consider its recommendation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

24. At its 230th meeting, on 30 November 1983, the Committee adopted by consensus parts I and II of its report to the General Assembly, as orally amended, as contained in document A/AC.159/L.56/Rev.1 and recommended the adoption of the following draft resolution as contained in part III, as orally amended.

III. RECOMMENDATION

25. 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, 36/90 of 9 December 1981 and 37/96 of 13 December 1982, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

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, taken 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 to make every effort, in consideration of the political and security climate in the Indian Ocean area, and 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 also its decision at the thirty-seventh session in resolution 37/96 concerning the consideration of the convening of the Conference not later than the first half of 1984,

Recalling the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1983,

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

Noting further the various documents before the Committee,

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, 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 urgent 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 3/ 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 1984, of the Conference on the Indian Ocean;

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. Takes note of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee during 1983;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to make decisive efforts in 1984 to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean, in consideration of the political and security climate in the region and with a view to enabling the opening of the Conference in Colombo in the first half of 1985, it being understood that such preparatory work would comprise organizational matters including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, documentation and consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and substantive issues;

6. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to make determined efforts in 1984 for the necessary harmonization of views on the remaining relevant issues;

7. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and requests the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

8. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three further sessions in 1984 of a duration of two weeks each, with the possibility of holding a fourth session to be considered as required;

9. 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;

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

11. 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-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/37/29).

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