

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/41/29)



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 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, 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; noted that the Ad Hoc Committee had been unable, during 1985, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean and urged the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination; requested the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1986 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country; emphasized that the Conference called for in its resolution 34/80 B and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace required the full and active participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States; decided that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that might ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference; requested the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General, at the appropriate time, on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference; renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requested the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three preparatory sessions in 1986 of a duration of two weeks each, for completion of the preparatory work; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work; 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 that were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving that matter at the earliest possible date; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a full report on the implementation of the resolution; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

2. Pursuant to resolution 40/153, the Ad Hoc Committee held its first session from 26 March to 8 April (A/AC.159/SR.293-298) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Two other sessions called for under the same resolution were merged in accordance with decision 40/472 of 9 May, adopted by the General Assembly at its resumed fortieth session and, accordingly, the Committee held a session from 14 to 25 July 2/ at United Nations Headquarters. The Committee held 13 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1986. In addition, the Working Group, established by the Ad Hoc Committee in 1985, held a total of nine meetings in the course of the two sessions of the Committee in 1986.

3. The Committee is composed of the following 48 Member States:

Australia	Mozambique
Banqladesh	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
China	Pakistan
Democratic Yemen	Panama
Djibouti	Poland
Egypt	Romania
Ethiopia	Seychelles
France	Singapore
German Democratic Republic	Somalia
Germany, Federal Republic of	Sri Lanka
Greece	Sudan
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Italy	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	United States of America
Liberia	Yemen
Madagascar	Yugoslavia
Malaysia	Zambia
Maldives	
Mauritius	

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. Nissanka Wijewardane (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. John Okely (Australia)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Samsi Abdulah (Indonesia)
Mr. Manuel dos Santos (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1986 (A/AC.159/L.69), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 293rd meeting, on 24 March 1986:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Rapporteur.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 40/153 in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and other relevant paragraphs.
6. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-first session in accordance with resolution 40/153.
7. Other matters.

6. At the 294th meeting, on 25 March, the Chairman presented the following text concerning the organization of work, which was subsequently adopted by the Committee, by consensus:

"It has been decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, in recognition of its preparatory functions, will meet in formal and informal sessions as it considers appropriate to complete the organizational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In doing so, adequate time will be given both to organizational and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.

"For consideration of substantive issues, the Committee will take into account, inter alia, the political and security climate in the region and characteristics of the zone as given in documents placed before the Committee or discussed during the sessions. The Committee will also give consideration to all other documents before it.

"It has been decided further that the Committee will establish an open-ended working group to convene during the scheduled sessions of the Committee with a mandate to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive issues relating to the establishment of a zone of peace with a view to, inter alia, recommending to the Ad Hoc Committee elements which might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. Meetings of the Committee and the open-ended Working Group will not take place concurrently."

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

7. During four formal meetings, from 26 March to 8 April (295th-298th meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee undertook consideration of item 5 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work referred to above.
8. At its 296th meeting, on 27 March, the Ad Hoc Committee elected Mr. Nihal Rodrigo (Sri Lanka) as Chairman of the Working Group for the duration of the Committee's first session.
9. During four formal meetings from 15 to 23 July (300th-303rd meetings), as well as in a number of informal meetings, the Committee continued consideration of item 5 of its agenda.
10. In the course of consideration of item 5 of its agenda, the members of the Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views, inter alia, on a draft framework of the provisional agenda for the Conference, draft rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation and a final document of the Conference. Views were also exchanged on major outstanding issues of substance with the objective of harmonizing views.
11. At its 299th meeting, on 14 July, the Ad Hoc Committee re-elected Mr. Nihal Rodrigo (Sri Lanka) as Chairman of the Working Group. Many issues of substance were discussed in the Working Group, including the question of confidence-building measures which it was agreed were important in the context of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region.
12. The Chairman of the Working Group introduced an informal paper based on documents before the Committee and entitled "Elements which might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, as called for in General Assembly resolution 39/149" which was translated into all the official languages of the Committee. Some delegations felt that in view of its importance it should be annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. All delegations agreed that discussions in the working group should be structured. Some delegations accepted the Chairman's informal paper as a suitable basis for discussion. Other delegations, whilst also expressing their appreciation for the Chairman's efforts, considered that more fundamental questions needed to be addressed first. They were also of the view that, given the importance of other documents before the Committee, it would not be appropriate to select only one of them for annexation to the Committee's report.

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

13. In a letter dated 25 July 1986, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe stated, inter alia, that Zimbabwe was interested in finding out the steps to be followed in order to become a member of the Committee. Subsequently, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had undertaken consultations with the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe on the matter during which it became evident that the intent of Zimbabwe was to apply for membership in the Committee. At its

305th meeting, on 25 July, the Ad Hoc Committee decided that, since there had not been sufficient time for consultations by the Chairman with the representatives of the respective regional groups, this matter would be addressed at a subsequent date.

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

14. The draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.70) was introduced by its Rapporteur, Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotozafy (Madagascar), at the Committee's 301st meeting, on 18 July.
15. At the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the non-aligned States members of the Ad Hoc Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.71).
16. At the 305th meeting, on 25 July, the Committee adopted by consensus parts I and II of its report to the General Assembly as contained in document A/AC.159/L.70/Rev.1 as orally amended, part III of its report as read into the Committee's records by the representative of Sri Lanka (subsequently issued as document A/AC.159/L.70/Rev.1/Add.1) and the report as a whole.

III. RECOMMENDATION

17. 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, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 3/

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

Recalling also 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 further its decision, taken at its fortieth session in resolution 40/153, concerning the convening of the Conference at an early date not later than 1988,

Recalling the exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1986,

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

Noting further the various documents before the Ad Hoc 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 any 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, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

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 and exchange of views in the Committee; 4/
2. Takes note of the discussions on substantive matters in the Working Group established in accordance with the Ad Hoc Committee's decision of 11 July 1985;
3. Emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference of 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;
4. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee has been unable, during its four weeks of work in 1986, to complete preparatory work relating to the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean and urges the Committee to continue its work with vigour and determination;
5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account the political and security climate in the region, to complete preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1987 in order to enable the opening of the Conference at Colombo at an early date soon thereafter, but not later than 1988, to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country, with a clear understanding that if preparatory work is not completed in 1987, serious consideration will be given to ways and means of more effectively organizing work in the Ad Hoc Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate;
6. Emphasizes that the Conference called for in General Assembly resolution 34/80 B and subsequent resolutions and the establishment and maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace require the full and active

participation and co-operation of all the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and the littoral and hinterland States;

7. Decides that preparatory work would comprise organizational matters and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the preparation of the draft final document of the Conference;

8. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee at the same time to seek the necessary harmonization of views on remaining relevant issues;

9. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference;

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

11. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions in 1987 each of a two-weeks' duration for completion of preparatory work;

12. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the Conference a report on its preparatory work;

13. 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;

14. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/40/29).

2/ In accordance with decision 40/472 adopted by the General Assembly on 9 May 1986, at its resumed fortieth session, no summary records were provided for the merged session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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

4/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/41/29).

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