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CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE
NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pablo Emilio SADER (Uruguay)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/54 of 4 December 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, 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 10 October 1991, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 47 to 65. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 24th meetings, from 14 to 30 October (see A/C.1/46/PV.3-24). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 25th and 37th meetings, from 4 to 15 November (see A/C.1/46/PV.25-37).
4. In connection with item 56, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the **Conference on Disarmament; 1/**

(b) **Letter** dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of **the documents** adopted by the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 6 August 1991 (A/46/486-S/23055);

(a) **Letter** dated 23 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the **Secretary-General (A/46/493);**

(d) Letter dated 25 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the **Secretary-General (A/C.1/46/12).**

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.1/46/L.31 AND Rev.1

5. On 1 November 1991, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka submitted a draft resolution entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (A/C.1/46/L.31), which was later also sponsored by Bolivia.

6. On 12 November, the **sponsors** submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/46/L.31/Rev.1), which was introduced by the representative of **Pakistan** at the 36th meeting, on 15 November. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes :

(a) The third preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Deeply concerned at the **arms** race, in particular the nuclear-arms race, and the **possibility** of the use or threat of **use of nuclear weapons"**

was deleted and **was** replaced by the original fifth preambular paragraph)

(b) A **new** fourth preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are **necessary** towards the achievement of the goal of general and complete disarmament, under effective international **control";**

(c) The sixth preambular paragraph, which had read:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27).

"Taking into account the principle of the non-use of force or threat of force enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,"

was revised to read:

"Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force";

(d) The sixteenth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Taking note further of the unilateral declarations on the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons made by all nuclear-weapon States,"

was revised to read:

"Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States")

(e) At the end of the nineteenth preambular paragraph, the phrase "in particular resolution 45/54 of 4 December 1990" was added;

(f) The original twentieth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Desirous of promoting the implementation of its resolution 45/54 of 4 December 1990,"

was deleted;

(g) In operative paragraph 3, the phrase "to demonstrate the political will and flexibility necessary to reach agreement" was revised to read: "to work actively towards an early agreement".

7. At its 36th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.31/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 133 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, **Brazil**, Brunei, Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, **Czechoslovakia**, Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

2/ Subsequently, the delegations of the Congo and Ecuador indicated that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Denmark, Djibouti, **Dominican Republic**, Egypt, **Estonia**, Ethiopia, **Fiji**, Finland, **France**, Germany, **Ghana**, **Greece**, **Grenada**, **Guinea**, **Guyana**, Hungary, **Iceland**, **India**, Indonesia, Iran (**Islamic Republic of**), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, **Jamaica**, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic **Republic**, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab **Jamahiriya**, **Liechtenstein**, Lithuania, Luxembourg, **Madagascar**, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, **Mexico**, Mongolia, Morocco, **Mozambique**, **Myanmar**, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, **Nicaragua**, Niger, **Niger ia**, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, **Panama**, Papua New **Guinea**, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of **Korea**, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, **Swaziland**, Sweden. Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of **Tanzania**, Uruguay, Vanuatu, **Venezuela**, **Viet Nam**, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: United Kingdom of **Great Britain** and Northern Ireland and United States of **America**.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting **security** for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of **civilization**,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent **progress** in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of the goal of general and complete disarmament, under effective international control,

Also convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete **elimination** of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant **provisions** of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of **force**, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international **community** to develop effective **measures** and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of **nuclear weapons** from any quarter,

Recognizing also that effective measures and arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of **nuclear weapons** can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth **Special Session** of the **General Assembly**, **3/** the first **special session** devoted to disarmament, in **which** it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective **arrangements** to **assure** non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament, **4/** submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, **5/** the second special session devoted to disarmament, **and** of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, **6/** the third special session devoted to disarmament, **as** well as of the report of *the* Conference on its 1991 session, **7/**

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

4/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on , **Disarmament** as from 7 February 1984,

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

6/ Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

7/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27), paras. 92 and 93.

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on **Effective** International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the decision of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, §/ as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference reiterated in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991, ¶/ calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to reach an urgent agreement on an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, & as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolution 45/54 of 4 December 1990,

1. **Reaffirms** the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

§/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

¶/ See A/46/486-S/23055, annex I.

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out

3. Appeals to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. Recommends that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. Recommends also that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".