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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/59 of 9 December 1992, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 1/ requested the Ad Hoc Committee to consider new alternative approaches leading to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, taking into account the changing international situation. It also requested the Ad Hoc Committee to address the complex ramifications of the issues involved and differing perceptions on those issues as well as the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The Assembly decided to convene, as early as possible thereafter, the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, and called upon the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of not more than 10 working days, and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/59, the Ad Hoc Committee held its session from 21 June to 2 July 1993 (see A/AC.159/SR.422-430) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 8 formal meetings, as well as 16 informal meetings during 1993.

3. At its 423rd meeting, on 21 June 1993, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to admit Nepal, upon its request, to participate as observer in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee at its 1993 session.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee is composed of the following States:

(a) 44 members:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Australia | Netherlands |
| Bangladesh | Norway |
| Bulgaria | Oman |
| Canada | Pakistan |
| China | Panama |
| Djibouti | Poland |
| Egypt | Romania |
| Ethiopia | Russian Federation |
| Germany | Seychelles |
| Greece | Singapore |
| India | Somalia |
| Indonesia | Sri Lanka |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Sudan |
| Iraq | Thailand |
| Italy | Uganda |
| Japan | United Arab Emirates |
| Kenya | United Republic of |
| Liberia | Tanzania |
| Madagascar | Yemen |
| Malaysia | Yugoslavia |
| Maldives | Zambia |
| Mauritius | Zimbabwe |
| Mozambique | |

(b) Observers: Nepal, Sweden

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

Chairman: Mr. Stanley Kalpage (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Matthew Neuhaus (Australia)
Mr. Mohammad Jusuf (Indonesia)
Mr. Pedro Comissario Afonso (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. Noël Rakotondramboa (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN 1993

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

6. At its 422nd meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda (A/AC.159/L.118):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59:

General discussion;

The changing international situation and its impact on the goal of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

Issues related to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 47/59;

New alternative approaches;

Future role of the Ad Hoc Committee.

5. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.
6. Other matters.

B. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59

7. During 8 formal meetings, from 21 June to 2 July (422nd to 430th meetings), and in 16 informal meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee considered General Assembly resolution 47/59 and its implementation.

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

8. At its 430th meeting, on 2 July, the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.119).

9. At the same meeting the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the draft report to the General Assembly (A/AC.159/L.119) as orally amended.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Ad Hoc Committee conducted an extensive discussion and exchanged views in terms of General Assembly resolution 47/59. Preliminary consideration was given to a number of new alternative approaches to the question of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. A Chairman's summary of the discussion is contained as an annex to the present report, without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

11. The Ad Hoc Committee reaffirmed the commitment to the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region leading to the creation of a Zone of Peace.

12. It was noted that great-Power rivalry has been replaced by a new and welcome phase of confidence, trust and cooperation, and that the improved international political environment following the end of the cold war had created favourable opportunities to renew comprehensive multilateral and regional efforts towards the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

13. There was general recognition that both global and regional efforts should be pursued in a complementary way, bearing in mind that the States of the region could provide their own constructive contribution to strengthen peace, security, stability and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. In this regard, the Ad Hoc Committee underlined the importance of the cooperation and participation, as appropriate, of the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and other interested States.

14. While recognizing that the elimination of destabilizing foreign military presence remains a desired goal, it was noted that the foreign military presence conceived in the context of great-Power rivalry has diminished considerably. The nature of foreign military presence has changed, and various views were expressed as to the character of and reasons for that change.

15. The Committee recognized that a step-by-step approach can facilitate incremental progress towards regional and global measures to ensure peace, security, stability and cooperation in the region, leading to a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean region.

16. There was general recognition of the historic significance of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as well as the relevance of some of its elements, and the contribution made by the 1979 Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to the process of advancing the cause of regional and international peace and security. In this context, it was felt that cooperative efforts could now be undertaken on a broader front encompassing both military and non-military aspects of security, bearing in mind the differing perceptions with regard to the region.

17. The Ad Hoc Committee welcomed the renewed participation of some members and emphasized the need for all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to cooperate with and participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, particularly at a time when the Committee is actively engaged in the task of developing new alternative approaches.

18. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that it continue consideration of new alternative approaches building upon its deliberations at the current session, with a view to reaching early agreement to give new impetus to the process of strengthening cooperation and ensuring peace, security and stability in the

Indian Ocean region. In this context, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the General Assembly invite views of Member States, including on the new alternative approaches discussed at the current session of the Committee.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/47/29).

ANNEX

Chairman's summary of the discussion

I. THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE
INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

1. The international political environment has improved considerably as super-Power rivalry has been replaced by mutual confidence, trust and cooperation. Favourable opportunities exist for renewal of efforts to establish the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

2. A new consensus has yet to emerge on questions of international peace and security.

3. Positive developments in the region are, inter alia, South Africa, Cambodia, Mozambique, Afghanistan, the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

4. The predominantly military orientation of security during the East-West confrontation has given way to a more comprehensive understanding of security; non-military aspects of security are coming to the fore.

5. There is a resurgence of both multilateralism and regionalism. The promotion of peace and security can be undertaken in tandem and at different levels.

6. Some States are developing cooperative arrangements with extraregional powers as they see these as stabilizing.

7. The Indian Ocean region is also affected by new international concerns relating to:

(a) All forms of terrorism;

(b) Drug trafficking;

(c) The illicit arms trade;

(d) The denial of right to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation;

(e) Increased instability in various parts of the region, inter alia, on ethnic and other bases.

II. ISSUES RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 47/59

8. The relevance of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace:

(a) Some elements still relevant; they should be revised;

(b) The historic significance of 1971 Declaration.

9. The relevance and continuing importance of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in 1979 (the 1979 meeting); only certain elements of the 1979 meeting continue to be relevant.

10. Examination of new alternative approaches should include both global and regional inputs.

11. Assess and re-examine the list of 20 elements contained in annex III to the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly; a/ revise and update the list:

(a) The list of 20 elements is important and could be utilized;

(b) The list of 20 elements relates to the Conference approach.

12. Update the meaning of the concept of a Zone of Peace.

13. Freedom of navigation in the high seas in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was reaffirmed.

14. External military presence:

(a) Any discussions should include consideration of external military presence; external military presence is a continuing concern; danger of accidents and "wrong signals";

(b) External Powers should refrain from military deployment in the region and dismantle bases; they should assume new attitudes and obligations vis-à-vis the countries of the region;

(c) Meanwhile, countries of the region should agree among themselves on a framework of cooperation and indicate to the extraregional powers what contributions are expected of them;

(d) States of the region now have differing perceptions about foreign military presence;

(e) The nature of external military presence has changed; for example, some of these facilities have been used for United Nations action to maintain international peace and security;

(f) A distinction can be drawn between foreign military presence and the military facilities being used for United Nations operations;

(g) Some States have initiated cooperative arrangements with extraregional military powers.

15. Nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction:

(a) Nuclear threat; conclusive agreements for global elimination of nuclear weapons have yet to be formulated;

(b) Transregional reach of nuclear weapons;

(c) Non-proliferation in the region should be ensured;

(d) Global arrangements towards the elimination of nuclear arms should be put in place.

16. Regional security:

(a) Countries in the region should follow policies of peace and cooperation based on the purposes and principles of the Charter and the five principles of peaceful coexistence;

(b) Military capabilities should not be more than is required for legitimate defence purposes, particularly in view of the security concerns of smaller States;

(c) Consideration of regional confidence-building measures requires taking note that the final limits of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace have yet to be agreed upon in the context of the 1979 meeting;

(d) The 1979 meeting clearly defined the limits of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace to cover the Indian Ocean itself, its natural extensions, the islands thereon, the ocean floor subjacent thereto, the littoral and hinterland States and the air space above;

(e) Countries should resolve disputes peacefully, implement confidence-building measures and then address non-military threats;

(f) Countries of the region could consider adapting consensus principles developed by the United Nations Disarmament Commission;

(g) Given the diversity and the wide spectrum of political, social and economic differences, a graded approach on confidence-building measures based on issues and dialogue partners could be considered.

III. NEW ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

17. A graduated (step-by-step, or incremental) approach; this would not preclude an eventual conference when appropriate, but permits focus on feasible initial steps building upon existing areas of cooperation.

18. A meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean region would contribute to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the region. Such a meeting would complement the efforts being made in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean for establishing peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. This can also take place at an appropriate forum of the Indian Ocean States. Such a meeting or forum may not be of an exclusively regional character.

19. A regional meeting of the Indian Ocean States is not required. The Ad Hoc Committee itself should consider new alternative approaches.

20. A "treaty of amity and cooperation" could be a useful model to consider.

21. The Ad Hoc Committee can review the 1971 Declaration in the light of post-cold war developments. In the meanwhile, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should undertake a study on the complex ramifications of issues involved, including the definition of the geographical limits of the region and make recommendations on effective measures to achieve goals.

22. Complementarity of regional and global approaches to the problem of ensuring peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

23. A broad confidence- and security-building approach not only on issues of military concern, but also building upon, inter alia, the economic and social aspects referred to in the 1971 Declaration, as well as scientific, cultural and environmental aspects, for example, the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation Council (IOMAC) initiative has already developed a promising framework for cooperation. In the field of security the confidence-building measures could include regional security dialogue, regional security institutions, mutual inspections and visits and effective communications and exchange of information among the military and political authorities.

24. The value of the IOMAC initiative has not yet been fully established.

25. While the issue of foreign military presence is being dealt with, the countries of the region should consider and agree on feasible first steps to promote peace and security in the region and request extraregional powers to respect them.

26. A broader global framework of security as a method of attaining the goal of a region of peace in the Indian Ocean.

27. Given the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean is currently engaged in the task of developing new alternative approaches, it is necessary that all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users cooperate with and participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

IV. FUTURE ROLE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

28. The Ad Hoc Committee could fashion arrangements that would ensure peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean; proposals responsive to changed international situation may be formulated.

29. The new role of the Ad Hoc Committee to be based on collective long-term commitments to peace and security in the region which brought the countries together.

30. The present role of the Ad Hoc Committee is to consider new alternative approaches; its future role will emerge depending on what would be agreed upon as new alternative approaches.

31. The Ad Hoc Committee will have a coordinating function, for example, between regional and global efforts. The focus of its mandate needs to be broadened and the Ad Hoc Committee could make recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly to this effect.

32. The Ad Hoc Committee should consider confidence- and security-building measures.

33. The Ad Hoc Committee need not attempt to formulate confidence-building measures. It should promote and act as a catalyst for confidence-building measures as agreed upon by States themselves.

34. Review the 1971 Declaration in the light of post-cold war developments while awaiting a study from the United Nations Secretary-General on the issues involved.

35. Consider inputs from a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States.

36. Consider inputs provided by a forum of Indian Ocean States.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/46/29 and Corr.1).