SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Volume I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS: TENTH SPECIAL SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 2 (A/S-10/2)

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UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1978
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.

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament decided that its special report should be divided into two volumes as follows:

Volume I - Establishment, work and achievements (1962-1978),
State of questions under consideration by CCD

Volume II - Positions of Member States and questions under consideration

Annex I, containing working papers and proposals of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, and annex II, containing a list of documents issued during the period from 1962 to 1978, will appear as an addendum to the present document (A/S-10/2/Add.1).
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INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 32/88 B of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, 1/ including a recommendation that the General Assembly request the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to submit to it at its special session a special report on the state of the various questions under consideration by the Conference.

2. In its resolution 32/77, the General Assembly requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations and, as a matter of high priority, to undertake the elaboration of an agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives submitted for its consideration, and to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament and at its thirty-third session. In its resolution 32/80, the General Assembly similarly requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue its work on the subject of a comprehensive programme for disarmament and to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament. In its resolution 32/78, the General Assembly also urged the three nuclear-weapon States to expedite their negotiations related to nuclear-weapon testing with a view to bringing them to a positive conclusion as soon as possible and to use their best endeavours to transmit the results for full consideration by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament by the beginning of its spring session in 1978, and requested the Committee to take up the agreed text resulting from those negotiations with the utmost urgency, with a view to the submission of a draft treaty to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament.

3. The present report has been prepared in direct response to those requests. It consists of two volumes. Volume I contains a section I, briefly covering the basic facts concerning the establishment, work and significant specific achievements of the Committee from its first meeting in early 1962 to the present date, followed by a section II, dealing directly with the current state of questions under consideration in the Committee. Volume II provides additional details on more recent views of delegations on questions under consideration in the Committee and developments relevant thereto.

I. ESTABLISHMENT, WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS (1962-1978)

A. Establishment, agenda, organization of work, membership and procedures

1. Establishment, agenda and organization of work

4. Prior to the establishment in 1961 of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament - the forerunner of the present Committee on Disarmament - multilateral disarmament negotiations within the framework of the United Nations took place, for the most part, in bodies of relatively restricted membership, composed exclusively of representatives of the two major military groupings of Europe and North America. The last multilateral negotiating body of that type functioning before the establishment of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee, created outside but linked to the United Nations, and that Committee terminated its activities in June 1960. From that date until the creation of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, no significant multilateral negotiations took place, other than tripartite negotiations among the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the question of a nuclear-weapon test ban.

5. In early 1961, the Soviet Union and the United States announced that they had reached an understanding to continue an exchange of views on questions relating to disarmament and a resumption of negotiations in an appropriate body whose composition was to be agreed upon and to inform the General Assembly at its sixteenth session, later in 1961, of the progress made. In its resolution 1617 (XV) of 21 April 1961, the General Assembly took note of the statements made by the Soviet Union and the United States at its fifteenth session on the question of disarmament. In September 1961, a statement containing agreed principles as a basis for multilateral negotiations on disarmament was issued jointly by the United States and the Soviet Union. 2/ The statement pledged, inter alia, that "States participating in the negotiations should seek to achieve ... the widest possible agreement at the earliest possible date". On 25 September 1961, the United States submitted to the General Assembly a proposed programme for general and complete disarmament 3/ and, the following day, the Soviet Union submitted a memorandum on measures to ease international tension, strengthen confidence among States and contribute to general and complete disarmament. 4/

6. The two countries reported, however, that they had not been able to reach agreement on the composition of a negotiating body prior to the sixteenth session.


3/ Ibid., document A/4891.

4/ Ibid., document A/4892.

-2-
of the General Assembly. By its resolution 1660 (XVI) of 28 November 1961, the General Assembly, after welcoming the agreement of the two Powers, noted that they wished to resume disarmament negotiations in an appropriate body whose composition had yet to be agreed upon and considering it essential that those two principal parties should agree and accept a negotiating body, urged the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to reach agreement on the composition of a negotiating body which both they and the rest of the world could regard as satisfactory before the conclusion of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. By its resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Assembly again welcomed the joint statement of the Soviet Union and the United States of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations and recommended that negotiations on general and complete disarmament should be based on those principles; endorsed the agreement that had been reached on the composition of a Disarmament Committee, whose membership would be Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America and recommended that the Committee, as a matter of utmost urgency, should undertake negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

7. The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, as it was officially titled, held its first meeting on 14 March 1962 at the Foreign Minister's level. One member of the Committee, France, decided not to participate, but its place on the Committee has been retained to the present date. The Foreign Ministers decided at that meeting to organize the Conference so as to permit simultaneous work on general and complete disarmament, on confidence-building (collateral) measures and on the discontinuance of nuclear-weapon tests.

8. Briefly summarized, the Eighteen-Nation Committee concentrated largely on the question of general and complete disarmament from 1962 to 1965, mainly on the basis of two proposals - one submitted to the Committee by the Soviet Union, entitled "Draft treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict international control" and another submitted by the United States, entitled "Outline of basic provisions of a treaty on general and complete disarmament in a peaceful world". During 1962 and 1963, however, the Committee, first in a Sub-Committee set up for that purpose and later in its plenary meetings, actively participated in the negotiation of a treaty banning the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water - referred to as the limited test-ban Treaty, signed in Moscow in August 1963 (see paras. 23 to 25).

9. In 1966, the Eighteen-Nation Committee reported to the General Assembly that it continued to regard general and complete disarmament as "the primary goal of its future work" but that "in order to achieve the widest possible agreement at the earliest possible date", it had continued consideration of such measures as could be agreed upon prior to the achievement of that goal, in particular the question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

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6/ Ibid., section F (ENDC/30).
As a result of growing emphasis on the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, consideration of disarmament, both in the Eighteen-Nation Committee and the General Assembly, was dominated by that question until mid-1968, when a non-proliferation treaty negotiated in the Eighteen-Nation Committee was transmitted to the General Assembly and commended by the Assembly (see paras. 26 to 32).

10. In mid-1968, the Eighteen-Nation Committee adopted the following comprehensive provisional agenda for its future work, which has remained unchanged to the present time:

"1. Further effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

"Under this heading members may wish to discuss measures dealing with the cessation of testing, the non-use of nuclear weapons, the cessation of production of fissionable materials for weapons use, the cessation of manufacture of weapons and reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear stockpiles, nuclear-free zones, etc.

"2. Non-nuclear measures.

"Under this heading, members may wish to discuss chemical and bacteriological warfare, regional arms limitations, etc.

"3. Other collateral measures.

"Under this heading, members may wish to discuss prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, etc.

"4. General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

"The Co-Chairmen note the recognized right of any delegation to raise and discuss any disarmament subject in any meeting of the Committee."

11. The Committee noted that its agenda had been adopted in response to recommendations of the General Assembly, taking into account the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and also the agreement announced on 1 July 1968 for bilateral discussions between the Soviet Union and the United States on the limitation of strategic nuclear arms.

12. From 1969 to date, discussion in the Committee has centred largely on the question of a comprehensive test ban, the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons, the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques and, most recently, the prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, the Committee has continued to recognize general and complete disarmament under effective international control as the final goal of all disarmament efforts.

13. At its twenty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2499 A (XXIV) of 31 October 1969, in which it endorsed the call of the Secretary-General for the proclamation of a Disarmament Decade to coincide with the Second United Nations Development Decade, and resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,
in which it declared the Decade of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade and specifically requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, while continuing intensive negotiations on collateral measures, to work out a comprehensive programme dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under effective international control. At the repeated request of the General Assembly, the Committee has considered the question of such a comprehensive programme, but without reaching any concrete agreement. In 1977, the Committee decided to set up, at the beginning of its 1978 session, an ad hoc working group to study the question in detail (for further details, see section II F).

14. During 1969 and 1970, the Committee, while continuing consideration of the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons, as well as a ban on nuclear-weapon tests, as requested by the General Assembly, concentrated its efforts on an agreement, first proposed by the Soviet Union, on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons on the sea-bed, which led to a final agreement on the subject (see paras. 33 to 38).

15. During 1971, the Committee concentrated its attention on the question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, which led to an agreement banning bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons as a first step towards a total ban on both biological and chemical weapons (see paras. 39 to 43). Active efforts to achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons have continued. In 1972, a draft convention on the subject was submitted to the Committee by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the USSR. In 1973, a comprehensive working paper on the subject was put forward by Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden and Yugoslavia. Draft conventions were submitted by Japan in 1974 and by the United Kingdom in 1976. [1]

16. During 1975 and 1976, the attention of the Committee focused increasingly on the question of prohibiting military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, resulting in the preparation of a draft convention on the subject broadly acceptable to the Committee and subsequently referred by the General Assembly to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification (see paras. 44-48).

17. During the period of the Disarmament Decade of the 1970s, the General Assembly also requested the Committee to prepare a number of special reports, including (a) a series of special reports on the question of a comprehensive nuclear-weapon test ban (1970, 1971 and 1973); (b) a report on the arms control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions, to be submitted as a part of the Committee's report on a comprehensive test ban (1974); and (c) a special report on the results achieved on the question of prohibiting the military use of environmental modification techniques. All of these special reports were submitted as separate sections of the Committee's regular annual reports to the General Assembly. In addition, the Assembly, in its resolution 3261 F (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, decided to undertake a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, to be carried out by an ad hoc group of governmental experts under the auspices of the Disarmament Committee, and requested the Committee to transmit the study to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. That report, prepared by

[1] All the documents mentioned in para. 15 are identified in section II. B.
the expert group established under the Committee’s auspices (CCD/467), was transmitted to the General Assembly as a separate document (CCD/476) and was subsequently published as a United Nations document. 8/

18. On its own initiative, the Committee also held a great number of informal technical meetings with the participation of experts, particularly on a comprehensive test ban, biological and chemical weapons, environmental modification techniques and new weapons of mass destruction. In July 1976, the Committee also established an Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events, which held a series of sessions from 1976 to 1978, when it issued a final report. 9/

2. Membership and procedures

19. During the past decade the Committee has been enlarged, first by the addition of Japan and Mongolia in July 1969, then by the addition of Argentina, Hungary, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Yugoslavia in August 1969, and lastly by the addition, at the beginning of 1975, of the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iran, Peru and Zaire. After the first enlargement in 1969, the name of the Committee was changed to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The General Assembly endorsed the 1969 enlargement in its resolution 2602 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and the enlargement agreed in 1974 in its resolution 3261 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974. In the latter resolution, the Assembly expressed the conviction that, to effect any future changes in the composition of the Committee, the procedure followed in that resolution should be observed.

20. With regard to procedures, the Committee agreed from the beginning that the Chair should be rotated in the sequence of meetings in English alphabetical order. The Committee also agreed that the permanent Co-Chairmen of the Committee should be the representatives of the USSR and the United States of America, who should consult with each other and other delegations, as desirable, with the aim of facilitating both the formal and informal work of the Committee. The Co-Chairmen also assumed responsibility for preparing the first draft of the Committee’s annual report. During the first year, a Sub-Committee, consisting of the three nuclear-weapon States only, was established to study the question of a comprehensive nuclear-weapons test ban; from the second year on, however, the Committee has occasionally decided that study of a particular question can be best carried out by an ad hoc working group of the whole set up for that particular purpose. Up until recent years the verbatim records of the Committee were made known to the public after a two-week delay, and other Committee documents were not made available to the public and other States Members of the United Nations until they were included as annexes to the annual report which the Committee made to each session of the General Assembly. Up until 1976 the Committee’s press communiqués were very brief. From the beginning to the present time, all meetings of the Committee have been closed to the public, press and others, unless the Committee decided otherwise. In practice, it has been possible recently for any State Member of the United Nations to submit documents to the Committee to be issued as official Committee


9/ The contents of special reports submitted up to the end of the 1978 spring session are briefly summarized in paras. 49 to 54.
documents and members of the Committee have, on occasion, submitted working papers containing documents prepared by non-members of the United Nations, if submitted as their own paper.

21. A number of Committee members, including Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia, urged throughout the years various changes in Committee procedures and in 1975, 1976 and 1977 a number of changes were adopted (for details, see sect. II.H).

B. Concrete results of the Committee's work: agreements and significant expert reports achieved by the Committee or with its active participation

1. Treaties and conventions

22. In the preceding paragraphs, in which is outlined the work of the Disarmament Committee during the 16 years of its existence, mention had been made of five specific multilateral arms limitation or disarmament agreements, in the form of treaties and conventions, that have been achieved with the significant participation of the Committee. A more detailed description of each of those agreements follows, together with a brief account of the negotiating history in each case.

(a) Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water

23. In the first days of the Committee's work, on 21 March 1962, a Sub-Committee consisting of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, was established to continue consideration of a treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear-weapon tests. Among the proposals before the Sub-Committee were draft agreements put forward by the United States and the United Kingdom, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union, on the other, dealing with the subject-matter. In August 1962, the United States and the United Kingdom submitted to the Committee two alternative draft treaties 10/ one of which was comprehensive in nature and the other of which proposed, as a first step, a ban on tests in all environments except underground, with no international verification and with a cut-off date of 1 January 1963. The two states made clear, however, that they would not accept an uncontrolled moratorium on underground tests in any form.

24. On 6 November 1962, by its resolution 1762 A (XVII), the General Assembly condemned all nuclear-weapon tests, asked that they cease immediately and not later than 1 January 1963, and recommended that, if the parties most concerned could not agree on such a comprehensive ban by that date, they should immediately prohibit nuclear-weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. The resolution also requested the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to reconvene immediately to resume negotiations in the matter. The Committee did so, concentrating its efforts on the question throughout the first half of 1963, urging the nuclear Powers concerned to reach early agreement among themselves and contributing a number of useful suggestions for making progress towards the desired goal. On 5 August 1963, the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom signed an agreement in Moscow banning nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other

nuclear explosions in the three environments proposed. At its subsequent session in late 1963, the General Assembly adopted, as resolution 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, a draft resolution submitted by the 17 participants in the Disarmament Committee, in which it noted with approval the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, and called upon all States to become parties to it.

25. The Treaty entered into force on 10 October 1963 and, as of the present date, more than 100 countries have become parties to it. (For a description of further efforts in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to reach a Comprehensive Test Ban agreement, see sect. II).

(b) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

26. Draft treaties on general and complete disarmament, introduced in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in 1962 by both the Soviet Union and the United States, contained provisions to prevent dissemination of nuclear weapons or their acquisition by countries not already possessing them. The first draft treaties restricted to that particular problem, however, were submitted to the Committee by the United States and the Soviet Union on 17 August and 24 September 1965, respectively. Despite considerable similarity between the two drafts, there were significant differences, particularly concerning the control of nuclear weapons within the framework of military alliances. Eight members of the Committee, referred to as the group of eight - Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic - pointed out in a joint memorandum 11/ of 15 September 1965 that a treaty on non-proliferation was not an end in itself, but only a means to the achievement of general and complete disarmament. They were "convinced that measures to prohibit the spread of nuclear weapons should, therefore, be coupled with or followed by tangible steps to halt the nuclear arms race and to limit, reduce and eliminate stocks of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery".

27. On 19 August 1966, the same eight Committee members submitted a second joint memorandum, 12/ reiterating their primary emphasis on the need for an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States, on the one hand, and non-nuclear-weapon States on the other hand.

28. In late 1966, the General Assembly adopted two draft resolutions on the subject. The first, resolution 2149 (XXI) of 4 November 1965 sponsored by the Soviet Union and 14 other States, including the United States and the United Kingdom, appealed to all States to achieve an early agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in accordance with the principles in resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965. The second, resolution 2153 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, sponsored by 47 States, specifically referring to resolution 2028 (XX) and urging all States to reach an early agreement on the matter, called on the Eighteen-Nation Committee to give high priority to the question, but also stressed the need in such an agreement for security assurances to the non-nuclear weapon States by nuclear-weapon States.


30. At the resumed twenty-second session of the General Assembly in 1968, the joint draft treaty, revised to reflect the objections of several delegations, was commended by the General Assembly in its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, adopted by a vote of 95 to 4, with 21 abstentions. The resolution expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to the Treaty, and requested the Committee and the nuclear-weapon States urgently to pursue negotiations towards nuclear disarmament, as well as towards general and complete disarmament.

31. In the discussion on the draft resolution, a number of the group of eight were among those who continued to express dissatisfaction with the Treaty, based primarily on alleged deficiencies concerning the commitment on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to further negotiations to achieve a comprehensive test ban and to reduce their nuclear arms, to provide security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States and uninhibited access of the non-nuclear States to the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the benefits to be derived from peaceful nuclear explosions.

32. The Treaty entered into force on 5 March 1970 and, as of the present date, 103 countries have become parties to it. A Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty was held in May 1975.

(c) Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and on the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (Sea-bed Treaty)

33. By its resolution 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, the General Assembly established an ad hoc committee to explore the practical means of promoting
international co-operation on matters related to the sea-bed. That Committee
decided, however, that the question of a possible arms race on the sea-bed should
be pursued in the context of disarmament negotiations and, on 1 July 1968, the
Soviet Union formally raised the matter in a memorandum on some urgent measures for
stopping the arms race and for disarmament, submitted to the Eighteen-Nation
Committee on Disarmament. On 14 July 1968, the United States also informed the
Committee of its official interest in the general subject. The ensuing debates in
the Committee and at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly revealed
widespread general support for limitations on the utilization for military purposes
of the world's sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond territorial waters; but a number
of States, including the Soviet Union, supported a complete demilitarization of
the area, while the United States and a number of other Member States favoured an
agreement prohibiting only the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the
sea-bed. In its resolution 2454 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, the General
Assembly took no position on the specific approach to the question, but noted the
Soviet memorandum and called for urgent measures to negotiate collateral measures
of disarmament, which was generally considered to include limitations on the use
of the sea-bed for hostile purposes.

34. On 18 March 1969, the Soviet Union submitted a draft treaty to the
Disarmament Committee, providing for the use of the sea-bed exclusively for
peaceful purposes, with a complete demilitarization of the sea and ocean
environment beyond a coastal zone of 12 miles. A number of Committee Members
supported the draft, but several countries expressed doubts that agreement could be
reached on such a comprehensive agreement in the foreseeable future, while the
United States, supported by the United Kingdom and others, held that a number of
military uses of the sea-bed were necessary for self-defence against submarines,
that the prohibition of conventional weapons on the sea-bed would present
insuperable problems of verification, and that the United States accordingly
considered that any international ban should be directed solely against the
emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed, whether nuclear,
chemical, biological or radiological. On 22 May 1969, the United States submitted
its own draft treaty along those general lines and also stipulating that the sea­
bed would include all the area covered by the seas or oceans beyond a 3-mile band.

35. After extensive debate and consultations, the Soviet Union and the United
States reached agreement on a compromise solution, reflected in a joint draft
treaty submitted to the Committee on 7 October 1969. The draft provided in the
main for a prohibition of the emplacement on the sea-bed or ocean floor beyond the
"maximum contiguous zone provided for in the 1958 Geneva Convention" (i.e.,
12 miles) any nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, as well as
their supporting structures and installations.

36. The revised joint draft was welcomed by the General Assembly in its
resolution 2602 F (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 but referred back to the Conference
of the Committee on Disarmament for further elaboration. On 23 April 1970, the
Soviet Union and the United States submitted a revised draft treaty, meeting a
number of objections to the former draft, and a new revision on 1 September
introduced additional changes.

37. That new draft, the basic provisions of which remained unchanged, was
commended by the General Assembly in its resolution 2660 (XXV) of 7 December 1970,
adopted by a vote of 104 to 2, with 2 abstentions. Those opposing the treaty
objected in particular to the limited scope of the Treaty and to certain
references in it to the definition of the outer limits of the sea-bed zone defined in the 1958 Geneva Convention.

38. The Treaty came into force on 13 May 1972 and, as of the present date, 64 States have become parties to it. A review Conference of Parties to the Treaty was held in June 1977. The Conference requested the Committee, in consultation with States Parties to the Treaty, to consider further measures for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, on the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof.

(d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention)

39. In its resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, the General Assembly envisaged the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological and chemical weapons. The Soviet Union and the United States, in their "joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations" of 1961, agreed that any programme of general and complete disarmament should contain provisions for eliminating chemical and bacteriological weapons. The 1968 agenda of the Disarmament Committee specifically envisioned consideration of the question.

40. In July 1969, the United Kingdom, believing that if no progress was possible on chemical weapons, biological weapons should be regulated separately, submitted to the Committee a draft convention for the prohibition of biological methods of warfare. The United Kingdom draft was supported by the United States. In September 1969, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR submitted to the General Assembly a draft convention providing for the prohibition of both chemical and biological weapons. In March 1971, after extensive debate on the subject, both in the Committee and in the General Assembly, the latter countries agreed to a prohibition limited to biological and toxin weapons, as a first step, and submitted to the Committee a new draft convention providing for such a ban. In general the 12 Committee members referred to as the group of 12 - Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden and Yugoslavia - continued, however, to support the concept of a ban including both chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and, in September 1971, submitted a memorandum to that general effect.

41. The Soviet Union and the United States, on 5 August 1971, submitted separate but identical texts of a draft convention still limited to a ban on biological and toxin weapons, but with a somewhat broader scope, and that draft was further revised in September 1971. The draft contained a commitment (article IX) to continue negotiations towards agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

42. By its resolution 2826 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, the General Assembly adopted the new draft convention with no opposing votes.

43. The Convention came into force on 26 March 1975 and, as of the present date, 76 countries have become parties to it.

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD Convention)

44. In July 1974, the Soviet Union and the United States made a joint statement advocating effective measures to overcome the danger of the use of environmental
modification techniques. They also decided to explore the problem jointly. The Soviet Union requested the inclusion on the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health, and in September introduced a draft resolution on the subject, with a draft convention annexed to it. The General Assembly adopted the draft as resolution 3264 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, in which it recognized the need for an international convention banning any such action, took note of the draft submitted by the Soviet Union and other views and suggestions on the subject and requested the Committee to proceed to the early achievement of an agreement on the text of an appropriate convention.

45. In August, 1975, after considerable discussion in the Committee, the United States and the Soviet Union submitted to the Committee identical texts of a draft convention prohibiting the "military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury to another State Party". Late in the same year, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the submission of the identical drafts, also noted that other delegations had offered suggestions regarding the draft and requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue its negotiations on the subject.

46. At the 1976 session of the Committee, a number of suggestions for improvement of the identical drafts were put forward by members of the group of 12 as well as by some Western members, both in plenary statements and in an Ad Hoc Working Group set up to consider the proposed text. In the main, the suggestions sought to broaden and clarify the scope of the ban. Although the two States sponsoring the draft convention maintained, in effect, that the language of the text had been very carefully worked out and that any changes would upset its delicate balance, they agreed to "understandings" interpreting certain key terms and affirming that certain environmental modification techniques previously mentioned in an illustrative list would be prohibited. An article providing for a Treaty review conference was also added. The Ad Hoc Working Group still failed to reach a consensus in the matter, and Argentina and Mexico, in particular, continued to maintain that certain phrases limiting the scope of the ban might actually legitimize many acts of environmental warfare. Finally, the Committee agreed to transmit to the General Assembly, as an annex to its report, the report of the Group containing the draft convention, as well as dissenting views and reservations thereon.

47. On 10 December 1976, the General Assembly adopted the draft, by 96 votes to 8, with 50 abstentions, as resolution 31/72, which, inter alia, referred the Convention to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification and requested the Secretary-General to open it for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date. Earlier, a draft resolution had been introduced by Mexico and sponsored by 12 other Member States, stressing the concern already expressed that the draft convention might legitimize certain environmental modification techniques, urging the deletion of the qualifications in the convention creating that misunderstanding and requesting the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue the negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement on a widely acceptable agreement. The General Assembly, however, after according priority to the draft resolution adopted as resolution 31/72 (see above), decided, by 49 votes to 42, with 35 abstentions, not to put the 13-State resolution to a vote.
48. On 18 May 1977, the Convention was opened for signature at Geneva by the United Nations Secretary-General as depositary of the Convention. It was signed by 46 States, but has not, as yet, entered into force.

2. Special reports

49. As noted above, the Disarmament Committee, particularly during the last 10 years, has carried out a number of special studies at the request of the General Assembly, and has submitted reports on such studies to the Assembly. One major study not specifically requested by the General Assembly has recently been prepared by an ad hoc group of seismic experts established by the Committee and will be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session. A brief description of these reports follows.

(a) 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1974 - special reports each year on a treaty banning underground nuclear-weapon tests, prepared at the request of the General Assembly in resolutions 2604 B (XXIV), 2663 B (XXV), 2934 B (XXVII) and 3078 B (XXVIII)

50. The special reports on the question of a treaty banning underground nuclear-weapon tests consisted mainly of the views and recommendations of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament delegations in the light of informal meetings on the subject held during the various years with the participation of experts on the subject, principally experts in the field of seismic detection and identification of nuclear tests. In general, the reports concluded that these exchanges of views had been fruitful, contributed significantly to a greater understanding of the question and served as a groundwork for further progress towards the desired ban.

(b) 1975 - special report on the arms control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions, submitted as a part of the Committee's annual report on a comprehensive test ban, requested by the General Assembly in resolution 3261 D (XXIX)

51. The special report on the arms control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions was submitted, as requested, as a part of the section of the Committee's annual report for 1975 on the question of a comprehensive test ban. The special section noted that a number of experts had participated in the discussions on the subject; that most members had agreed that it was not possible for a State not possessing a nuclear explosive capability to carry out a programme of peaceful nuclear explosions without, in the process, achieving a nuclear-weapon capability; and that many members had urged universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a solution to that problem, while others had urged additional international restraints on peaceful nuclear explosions. It also reported, however, that several members had noted that the Review Conference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in mid-1975, had stated that the potential benefits of peaceful nuclear explosions should be made available to non-nuclear-weapon States not parties to the Treaty and that India had specifically disagreed with the view that such peaceful explosions should not be permitted outside the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The special role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in applying appropriate safeguards on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was recognized by virtually all delegates.
52. The special study conveyed a consensus, reached by the experts preparing the report, on certain principles to be taken into account in creating nuclear-weapon-free zones. A convergence of views on specific aspects of those principles was also reflected in the study. The experts did not report agreement, however, on a number of peripheral questions, such as whether or not there was a distinction between an explosion of nuclear weapons and that of a nuclear explosive device. They also did not reach consensus on the definition of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and the definition of the obligations of nuclear-weapon States with respect to such zones. At the following session of the General Assembly, the comprehensive study was welcomed by most delegations; but some, including Mexico, expressed dissatisfaction that the report had not included those definitions. The General Assembly adopted, by a vote of 126 to none, with 2 abstentions, resolution 3472 A (XXX) of 11 December 1975, inviting Governments, IAEA and other international organizations concerned to report their views on the subject to the Secretary-General by mid-1976 to be conveyed to the General Assembly at its next session. It also adopted, as resolution 3472 B (XXX) and by 82 votes to 10, with 36 abstentions, a draft resolution sponsored by Argentina, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Zaire, containing a definition of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, as well as of the principal obligations of the nuclear-weapon States towards such zones and towards the States included therein.

53. The report on the above subject, submitted as a separate part of the Committee's annual report for 1976, consisted of a detailed description of the development of negotiations on the subject during the year and the views expressed by the various delegations.

54. The report of the Group (CCD/558) unanimously adopted by experts from 13 member States participating in the Group and from 6 non-member States participating by invitation, was noted by the Committee on 21 March 1978 and will be submitted to the General Assembly. The report describes in considerable detail how seismological science could be applied in a co-operative international effort to facilitate verification of a comprehensive test ban. It concludes that such a co-operative effort should comprise three elements: a systematic improvement of the observations reported from a network of more than 50 seismological observatories around the globe; an international exchange of these data over the Global Telecommunications System of the World Meteorological Organization; and processing of the data at special international data centres for the use of participant States. The Group also saw the need for some steps, such as an experimental exercise, which could be taken initially to assist the establishment of such a co-operative data exchange system, estimates the capability of the system and provides illustrative estimates of its cost.
II. STATE OF QUESTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE
CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

55. There follows a brief descriptive account of the state of each of the various
principal questions under consideration by the Committee. Members' views on those
questions may be found in volume II of this report.

A. Question of nuclear disarmament, including
a comprehensive nuclear-test ban

1. General

56. Questions of nuclear disarmament, including the conclusion of a comprehensive
nuclear-test ban and substantial reductions of nuclear armaments with the ultimate
goal of their complete elimination, continue to be the highest priority items on the
agenda of the Committee. The Committee also maintains a strong interest in the
non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and members have frequently stated their
positions on that issue, as well as on the question of the establishment of nuclear
weapon-free zones in all its aspects.

57. Other nuclear disarmament issues before the Committee include a proposal by the
Soviet Union to reach an agreement on a simultaneous halt in the production of
nuclear weapons by all States, and also on the assumption of an obligation by the
nuclear States to proceed to a gradual reduction of the already accumulated stocks
of those weapons and move towards their complete, total destruction; a suggestion by
Japan that the cut-off of the production of nuclear fissionable materials for
nuclear weapon purposes be reconsidered with a view to contributing to the cessation
of production of nuclear weapons and to bringing more countries to adhere to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; a number of proposals by Romania,
beginning with the non-use of nuclear weapons and the banning of the deployment of
nuclear weapons and their withdrawal from the territories of other States, within a
programme aimed at the complete elimination of such weapons; and a draft convention
prohibiting nuclear neutron weapons, introduced by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German
Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

2. Comprehensive nuclear-test ban

58. The Committee's highest priority remains the conclusion of a comprehensive
nuclear-test ban. Many members have expressed extensive views on this issue. As
noted in section I of this report, the Committee prepared special reports to the
General Assembly directly on that subject in 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1974 and has
reported in detail on the subject annually.

59. In both 1967 and 1971, Sweden submitted detailed suggestions for a treaty to ban
all nuclear-weapons tests, providing for verification primarily by national means,
but also including the possibility of on-site inspection on the invitation of the
party suspected of carrying out a nuclear-weapon test. In 1971, Burma, Egypt,
Ethiopia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a joint
memorandum expressing their views with regard to a number of aspects of the question of a comprehensive test ban treaty (CCD/354), and, in 1973, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden and Yugoslavia submitted a further memorandum also dealing with these questions (CCD/396).

60. In 1977, the Soviet Union submitted to the Committee a draft convention on the general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests (CCD/523).

61. In 1977, Sweden submitted to the Committee the text of a draft treaty based on its previous suggestions but with some modifications in order, inter alia, to cover the question of peaceful nuclear explosions (CCD/526/Rev.1).

62. In mid-1977, the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom announced that they were engaged in trilateral talks on the subject of a test ban.

63. In resolution 32/78 of 12 December 1977, the General Assembly at its thirty-second session urged the three nuclear-weapon States involved in the trilateral talks regarding the comprehensive test ban to expedite their efforts and to use their best endeavours to transmit the results for full consideration by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament by the beginning of its spring session. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to take up the matter with the utmost urgency with a view to the submission of a draft treaty to the General Assembly at its special session on disarmament.

64. The United States, the United Kingdom and the USSR informed the Committee that they are continuing tripartite negotiations with a view towards reaching agreement on the provisions of a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests and a protocol covering nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which would be an integral part of the treaty. In reporting to the Committee on 16 March 1978, the three parties stated that they shared the widely-held view that an international exchange of seismic data will play a major role in verification of compliance with the treaty. It was also stated that the three parties were keenly aware of the great importance that the Members of the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament attach to the earliest possible conclusion of a treaty and would continue their best efforts to complete the tripartite negotiations as soon as possible. The Committee was informed that, following a brief recess for consultations in capitals, the tripartite negotiations were resumed on 4 May 1978. As at the date of this report, no agreed text resulting from these negotiations has been transmitted to the Committee for its full consideration with a view to the elaboration of a treaty on the subject, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/78.

65. At the Committee’s 1978 spring session, a number of delegations expressed regret that the talks had not yet had the desired results, while other delegations expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved at those talks.

66. In a matter related to a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, the Committee has held informal meetings virtually every year during the past 10 years, with the participation of experts, mainly on the subject of the possible verification of such a ban by seismological means. In 1976, the Committee established an Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events, which continued the first phase of its work up until March 1978, when it submitted its report (CCD/558) to the Committee recommending the establishment of a global network of seismological stations and the carrying out of
a practical exercise. After the Committee had considered the report of the Ad Hoc Group, it decided (CCD/570) that the Group should continue its work by studying the scientific and methodological principles of a possible experimental test of a global network of seismological stations of the kind which might be established in the future for the international exchange of seismological data under a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests, as well as under a protocol covering nuclear explosions, which would be an integral part of that treaty. The Group is due to report the results of the new phase of its work to the Committee during its 1979 spring session.

3. "Nuclear neutron weapon" or "Reduced blast/enhanced radiation weapon"

67. On 9 March 1978 Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union introduced a draft convention on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear neutron weapons (CCD/559). The co-sponsors considered that production and deployment of such a new weapon, which they consider to be a new weapon of mass destruction, would have a destabilizing effect on the current politico-military situation and on disarmament negotiations, and would escalate the arms race to a new and more dangerous level.

68. The United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany rejected that proposal mainly on the grounds that nuclear neutron weapons are nuclear weapons, which they do not consider to be new weapons of mass destruction, and that such weapons should be dealt with along with other nuclear weapons rather than separately.

69. Several other States also expressed views on the issue and on the proposed draft convention.

B. Question of the prohibition of chemical weapons

70. Since the conclusion, in 1971, of the Committee's work on the bacteriological (biological) weapons Convention, which entered into force in 1975, the Committee has continued consideration of the question of the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction (the use of such weapons is already banned by the 1925 Geneva Protocol, but many States have reserved the right to retaliate in kind and some maintain chemical weapons for deterrence and retaliatory purposes). Since the bacteriological (biological) weapons Convention also covers toxins, which are chemical substances, it, in essence, constitutes a first step towards a prohibition of chemical weapons.

71. Consideration of the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction has been influenced largely by three draft conventions and detailed working papers and statements presented to the Committee by various members, as follows: (a) a draft convention submitted by Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian SSR, providing for a comprehensive ban on all chemical weapons (CCD/361); (b) a draft convention submitted by Japan providing for a ban on all chemical weapons in principle, but with a phased application of the various categories of chemical
agents as their prohibition became verifiable (CCD/420); (c) a draft convention by the United Kingdom based on elements from the drafts in (a) and (b) above, together with certain new ideas (CCD/512); and (d) a working paper submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden and Yugoslavia containing detailed suggestions for a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons (CCD/400), as well as working papers and statements containing proposals for the elaboration of a draft treaty presented by various Committee members, including Canada, Italy, Japan, the United States and Yugoslavia.

72. During 1977 Italy, supported by a number of delegations, put forward a proposal for establishing a working group with the participation of experts, in order to begin the consideration of the basic principles of a draft convention pending the joint initiative announced by the United States and the Soviet Union. In its resolution 32/77 of 12 December 1977 on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, to undertake the elaboration of an agreement on chemical weapons, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, and to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its special session.

73. In 1974, the United States and the Soviet Union announced in Moscow their intention to consider a joint initiative for presentation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the subject of chemical weapons. On 9 May 1978, those two States informed the Committee that they had held intensive bilateral talks since 1976 on a joint initiative to assist the Committee in achieving early agreement on a complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, as well as providing for the destruction of existing chemical weapons. The two parties have also informed the Committee that agreement in principle has emerged on most, although not all, points in the area of scope. They have also reported that they are in agreement that the convention should contain provisions clearly specifying the procedures for declaring chemical-weapons stockpiles and making declarations relating to the means of production of chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention. However, measures relating to the disposition of those means of production require further negotiation. The two parties have further informed the Committee that they share the view that arrangements for adequate verification should be based on a combination of national and international arrangements, including the creation of a consultative committee. The Committee has also been informed that, while the two parties have agreed on some arrangements and procedures in the area of verification, no agreement has yet been reached on certain important issues, including specific methods of verifying the destruction of chemical-weapon stocks and the disposition of the means of production for chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention. The United States and the Soviet Union have stated to the Committee that they will continue their best efforts to complete the bilateral negotiations on a joint initiative on this important and extremely complex problem as soon as possible.

74. In the Committee, numerous formal and informal meetings with experts have been held on a chemical weapons prohibition. These meetings have covered discussion of the draft proposals before the Committee and the possible consequences of a treaty on chemical weapons, along with technical matters considered necessary for evaluating the drafts, especially the scope and verification provisions of a treaty on chemical weapons. In the course of these discussions with regard to the scope of prohibition to be contained in a treaty, a narrowing of the views towards a nearly comprehensive ban has developed, while differences remain with respect to verification issues.
In keeping with its own agenda and resolution 32/77, the Committee has continued to treat the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons as a high priority item.

C. Question of the prohibition of new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction

6. During the last three years, the Committee has considered various issues relating to new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. In 1976, the Soviet Union submitted a draft convention (CCD/511) to the Committee proposing a comprehensive prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction and indicating that the weapons to be covered could be specified through negotiations. Several members of the Committee supported the draft convention. Some members, including the United States, rejected the approach of an omnibus treaty. In 1977, the Soviet Union submitted a revised version (CCD/511/Rev.1) of its draft convention which was based on the 1948 United Nations definition of weapons of mass destruction as "... atomic explosive weapons, radioactive material weapons, lethal chemical and biological weapons, and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effects to those of the atomic bomb or other weapons mentioned above ...". This draft convention included a list of possible new weapons of mass destruction as well as a provision for the conclusion of special agreements on particular types of new weapons of mass destruction in conjunction with the conclusion of a broader, general agreement which would ban the development of all new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction.

7. The United States and a number of other members continued to maintain that the best way to prevent development and deployment of new weapons of mass destruction would be to keep the question under review, developing agreements dealing with particular new types of such weapons when they had been clearly identified.

8. The Committee has held a number of informal meetings on the subject, with the participation of experts.

9. During the spring 1978 session, the Soviet Union submitted a proposal to establish a group of qualified governmental experts under the auspices of the Committee to consider the question of possible areas of development of new types of weapons of mass destruction to be included in the initial list of the types of such weapons to be prohibited under a comprehensive agreement (CCD/564).

D. Question of the prohibition of radiological weapons

10. The question of the prohibition of radiological weapons was discussed in the Committee in 1970. Subsequently, in 1977, the United States and the Soviet Union informed the Committee that they were working on a joint initiative for possible presentation to the Committee on the prohibition of radiological weapons and recently indicated that considerable progress had been made in that regard.
E. Question of general and complete disarmament under
strict and effective international control

81. In section I of this report, the history of negotiations in the Committee on
Disarmament on the subject of general and complete disarmament is outlined, showing
that the Committee has, since 1965, devoted the greater part of its attention to
specific collateral measures.

82. The problem of conventional weapons has been raised in the Committee by a
number of members. Among others, the delegations of Canada, the Federal Republic
of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United
States of America, made statements and suggestions concerning the international
transfer of conventional weapons and the possibility of regional agreements in this
field. The delegations of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic,
Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suggested
limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons. It was
emphasized by a number of members of the group of 15 and others that the question
of conventional weapons should be considered only within the framework of general
and complete disarmament and that it should not divert attention from the top
priority issues of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of chemical weapons.
Some members of the Committee also stressed that the primary responsibility for
disarmament lay with the major military States. They pointed out that the recent
emphasis on conventional weapons had not led to any diminution in the transfer of
such weapons.

83. By its resolution 2602 E (XXIV) proclaiming the Disarmament Decade of the
1970s, the General Assembly requested the Committee to work out a comprehensive
programme dealing with all disarmament problems as a guideline to chart its future
work and negotiations. The Committee has given increasing attention to the question
of formulating new approaches, or guidelines, for general and complete disarmament.

F. Comprehensive programme of disarmament

84. A number of documents on the subject have been submitted to the Committee, to
the General Assembly and, most recently, to the Preparatory Committee for the
Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

85. Among the principal documents submitted to the Committee are the following:
(a) a working paper submitted in 1970 by the Netherlands containing some
introductory remarks on steps towards a comprehensive disarmament programme
(CCD/276); (b) a working paper submitted in 1970 by Italy, on a comprehensive
 programme of disarmament (CCD/309); (c) a joint draft comprehensive programme of
disarmament submitted in 1970 by Mexico, Sweden and Yugoslavia (CCD/313); (d) a
working paper submitted by Romania in 1975 on steps to be taken within a
disarmament programme (CCD/449); (e) a working paper submitted by Nigeria in 1976,
on conclusions of the mid-term review of the disarmament decade (CCD/510); (f) a
memorandum on questions of ending the arms race and on disarmament, submitted by
the USSR in 1977 (CCD/522); (g) a working paper containing a draft of a
comprehensive programme submitted by Mexico in 1977 (CCD/545); (h) a working paper
dealing with the question of the drafting of a comprehensive programme of
disarmament, submitted by Italy in 1978 (CCD/548); (i) a draft programme of action
for the Special Session, submitted by the United Kingdom and also sponsored by
Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands,
containing a draft proposal of action being submitted to the Preparatory Committee (CCD/549 and Corr.1); (j) a working paper submitted by Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Peru, Yugoslavia and Zaire, containing the text of document A/AC.187/55 submitted by the same countries to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session (CCD/550/Rev.1 and Corr.1); (k) a working paper on the comprehensive programme of disarmament, submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the USSR in 1978 (CCD/552); (l) a working paper on the subject of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, submitted by Romania (CCD/553); (m) a working paper submitted by Sweden, containing the text of Preparatory Committee document A/AC.187/95 (CCD/554); (n) a working paper containing suggestions for inclusion in a comprehensive programme, submitted by Nigeria (CCD/555); (o) a working paper submitted by Mexico containing the text of document A/AC.187/56, already approved by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session (CCD/560); and (p) a working paper submitted by Mexico, containing the text of document A/AC.187/89/Add.1 submitted to the Preparatory Committee (CCD/561 and Add.1).

86. A number of Committee members, although not submitting formal documents, have presented extensive views on the matter of such a programme, including the suggestion for the elaboration of the 1961 Joint Statement of Agreed Principles into a comprehensive programme of disarmament. The essence of the joint programme noted under paragraph 85 (c) above was submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session by its three Committee sponsors, joined by Ireland, Morocco and Pakistan; and the Assembly in its resolution 2661 (XXV), specifically requested the Committee to take the programme contained in the document into account in its future work on a comprehensive disarmament programme. Thereafter, the question was discussed each year in the Committee with no formal action. In its resolution 31/68, dealing with the Disarmament Decade, the General Assembly urged the Disarmament Committee to adopt, during 1977, a comprehensive programme dealing with all aspects of disarmament in accordance with resolution 2602 (XXIV).

87. At the Committee's 1977 session, a series of five informal meetings were held on the subject, but no common view emerged on the content of the proposed programme. The Committee therefore decided that a working group to consider the problem should be set up at the beginning of the Committee's 1978 session. In its resolution 32/80, the General Assembly took note of that decision and, as noted above, requested the Committee to continue its work on the subject and submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its special session.

88. On 2 March 1978 the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament set up an Ad Hoc Working Group to discuss and elaborate a comprehensive programme for disarmament and adopted its terms of reference. The Ad Hoc Working Group held two meetings at which it discussed organizational matters, particularly with respect to documentation for its work. At its third meeting, the Group adopted its report to the Committee. In that report, the Group took note of the documents prepared by the Secretariat at the Group's request, and which would be useful for future work on the comprehensive programme of disarmament. In accordance with the recommendation of the Group, the Committee decided to annex, to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament, the tabulation of proposals as prepared by the Secretariat (CCD/567 - see A/8-10/2/Add.1, annex I).
G. Question of further measures to prevent an arms race on the sea-bed

89. The Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, held in 1977, requested the Committee on Disarmament, in consultation with States parties to the Treaty, to consider promptly further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed, the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof.

90. Since that time, several members of the Committee have expressed support for further steps to be taken by the Committee in that regard.

H. Organization and procedures of the Committee

91. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has considered its organizational and procedural arrangements over the years in order to increase its effectiveness and adapt to the growing international interest in disarmament matters. The membership of the Committee was increased in 1969 and again in 1974 to the present number of 31 countries.

92. Following a number of suggestions for modifying the organization and procedures of the Committee put forward in recent years by various delegations - including Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia - the group of 15, in 1976, called for: (a) the creation of a standing sub-committee; (b) inclusion in the Committee's communiqué of brief factual summaries of the substance of the discussions at the meeting in question; and (c) preparation of the first draft of the Committee's annual report by the Secretariat. In 1977, some of these suggestions were reiterated by 12 members of the group of 15. The Committee decided to put these various modifications into effect, except that of establishing a permanent sub-committee.

93. More particularly, the Committee, while adhering to its fundamental principle of adoption of all decisions by consensus, adopted the following modifications in its organization and procedures:

Verbatim records of the Committee's plenary sessions and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament working documents are now sent immediately to New York and made available to all United Nations Member States as soon as they are received from Geneva (see CCD/532);

Press communiqués of plenary sessions have been expanded to reflect, in greater detail, the substance of the Committee's deliberations, each representative being responsible for providing the Secretariat with an authoritative summary of his statement;

Preparation of the first draft of the Committee's annual report, once the responsibility of the Co-Chairmen, now falls to the Secretariat;

Each year, unless otherwise decided, the Committee will be convened at the third Tuesday of February and its report shall be transmitted on the last Thursday of August; at the beginning of the first session, and thereafter as the need arises, it shall discuss the organization of its work (CCD/477 and CCD/PV.665);
Provisional guidelines for the establishment of ad hoc working groups have been adopted to expedite and facilitate the Committee's work in drafting agreements (see CCD/532).

4. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has provided for the submission of documents by United Nations Member States, not members of the Committee, for circulation as official documents of the Committee, and has also, in two instances, invited interested United Nations Member States, not members of the Committee, to participate in special working groups meeting under Committee auspices, most recently the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events.

5. During the 1978 spring session of the Committee, many members addressed themselves to the ongoing discussions with respect to disarmament machinery taking place in New York in preparation for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. The delegation of the Netherlands submitted a working paper on a possible international disarmament organization (CCD/565). The delegation of Italy submitted a working paper dealing with the main elements of the international disarmament machinery, in which specific suggestions are put forward concerning the improvement of the organization, structure and methods of work of the Committee and the establishment of a permanent international organ for verification of multilateral disarmament measures (CCD/568).

6. With respect to the Committee, the group of 15 submitted a working paper (CCD/563) recommending: (a) strengthening of the existing link between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; (b) replacement of the system of co-chairmanship by a system to be agreed upon; (c) adoption by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament of its own rules of procedure; (d) examination of relevant procedures to improve the effectiveness of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, including, inter alia, the establishment of a tending sub-committee of the whole; and (e) opening the Committee's plenary meetings to the public. In addition to the proposals and consideration of the members of the Committee on procedures and organization, all relevant documents of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament in the issue were circulated in the Committee.

7. All the members of the Committee are of the opinion that the Committee should intensify its efforts to discharge its responsibility as a principal forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations. Members of the group of 15 and others have insisted that changes in the organization and procedure of the Committee constitute a basic requirement for improving the Committee's performance and have indicated that such changes are necessary in order to adapt the Committee to the new international conditions which have developed since its establishment. Other members of the Committee have stated that the effectiveness of the Committee's work is primarily connected with the expression of the political will of Committee members; that they would be ready to accept some changes in the Committee on the condition that such changes would lead to enhancing the Committee's effectiveness; and that the improvement of forms and methods of the work of the Committee should be carried out with great discretion in order not to disturb the established organizational basis, which has proved to be effective.
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