



RESOLUTIONS 3472 (XXX)

Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3261 F (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, by which it decided to undertake a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,

Having considered the special report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament¹ containing the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,²

Noting the comments made by States members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament regarding the study,³

Convinced that the study will enhance further efforts concerning nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Recognizing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to the security of members of such zones, to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the goals of general and complete disarmament,

Expressing the wish that the study will be of assistance to States interested in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

(*) Resolution adopted by the XXX General Assembly of the United Nations, as recommended by the First Committee A/10441.

1 A/10027/Add.1

2 Ibid., annex I.

3 Ibid., annex II.

1. Takes note of the special report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament containing the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon zones in all its aspects;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones for the preparation of the study;
3. Conveys its thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant international organizations for the assistance they have given for the preparation of the study;
4. Commends the special report to the attention of all Governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant international organization;
5. Invites all Governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General before 30 June 1976 such views, observations and suggestions on the special report as they may deem appropriate;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report based on information received under paragraph 5 above and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the reproduction of the special report as a United Nations publication and to give it the widest possible publicity in as many languages as is considered desirable and practicable;
8. Recommends that all Governments give a wide distribution to the special report so as to acquaint public opinion with its contents, and invites relevant international organizations to use their facilities to make the special report widely known;
9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-first session the item entitled "Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects".

2437th plenary meeting,
11 December 1975

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members and that, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter, international relations should be governed, among other fundamental principles, by those relating to the prohibition of the threat or use of force and to non-intervention,

Bearing in mind that nuclear-weapon-free zones constitute one of the most effective means for preventing the proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, of nuclear weapons and for contributing to the elimination of the danger of a nuclear holocaust,

Reaffirming the principle defined in its resolution 2028 (XX) 19 of November 1965, which established the necessity that there should be an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States,

Reaffirming also the request made in its resolution 2153 A (XXI) 17 of November 1966 to all nuclear-weapon States to refrain from the use, or the threat of use, of nuclear weapons against States which conclude regional treaties order to ensure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories,

Having examined the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects ² carried out under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3261 F (XXIX) of 9 December 1974,

Having examined also the comments made by States members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament regarding that study, ³ the text of which is annexed the special report in which the Conference transmitted the study to the General Assembly, ¹

Bearing in mind that, without prejudice to the results that may be obtained through any further examination of this matter, from the analysis of the content of the special report it is already possible at this time to draw certain in controvertible conclusions,

Noting that from among those conclusions it would seem advisable to stress necessity that the General Assembly define the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and the scope of the principal obligation of the nuclear-weapon States towards such zones and towards the States included therein,

Convinced that in so doing it will strengthen the new efforts recently undertaken and the realizations already achieved for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Solemnly adopts the following declaration:

I. Definition of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone

1. A “nuclear-weapon-free zone” shall, as a general rule, be deemed to be any zone, recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which any group of States, in the free exercises of their sovereignty, has established by virtue of a treaty or convention whereby:
 - (a) The statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone, is defined;

- (b) An international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute.

II. Definition of the principal obligations of the nuclear-weapon States towards nuclear-weapon-free zones and towards the States included therein

- 2. In every case of a nuclear-weapon-free zone that has been recognized as such by the General Assembly, all nuclear-weapon States shall undertake or reaffirm, in a solemn international instrument having full legally binding force, such as a treaty, a convention or a protocol, the following obligations:
 - (a) To respect in all its parts the statute of total absence of nuclear weapons defined in the treaty or convention which serves as the constitutive instrument of the zone;
 - (b) To refrain from contributing in any way to the performance in the territories forming part of the zone of acts which involve a violation of the aforesaid treaty or convention;
 - (c) To refrain from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against the States included in the zone.

III. Scope of the definitions

- 3. The above definitions in no way impair the resolutions which the General Assembly has adopted or may adopt with regard to specific cases of nuclear-weapon-free zones nor the rights emanating for the Member States from such resolutions.

2437th plenary meeting
11 December 1975