

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen) participated in its work.

In ajoint letter [CD/1407] addressed to the President of the Conference, the 23 new member States made the commitment, legally binding upon each individually, not to obstruct any consensus among the original members of the Conference. The commitment would cease to apply after two years for States not subject to comprehensive enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, or earlier, if there was consensus in the Conference that the circumstance that had given rise to the situation (i.e., sanctions imposed by the Security Council on one of the new members) no longer existed.

After the expansion of the membership by 23 States, there were still 14 outstanding applications (in chronological order): Ireland, Tunisia, Ecuador, Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus. The Conference requested the President to continue consultations on further expansion of its membership.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/47 C**.

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. Also welcomes the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 17 June 1996 to expand its membership with the admission of twenty-three new members;

4. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to continue further review of its membership;

5. Also encourages the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a consensus on its agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its 1997 session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

General Assembly resolution 51/47 C

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.13) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); draft by Poland (A/C.1/51/L.25), orally revised; agenda item 73 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 23; plenary 79.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/47 A**.

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament and in particular the section concerning the expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Convinced that a more representative membership of the Conference on Disarmament from among the United Nations would contribute to the more effective pursuit of disarmament goals affecting the entire international community,

Recalling that since 1978, when agreement was reached at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament would be reviewed at regular intervals, there have been thirty-seven applications for membership in the Conference,

Recalling also that, in 1993, the Special Coordinator for Membership of the Conference on Disarmament proposed that twenty-three applicants for membership should be admitted to the Conference and proposed further that a dynamic solution to the question of membership should be pursued,

Recalling further decision CD/1406 of the Conference on Disarmament, adopted at its 739th plenary meeting on 17 June 1996, admitting twenty-three countries as members of the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 50/72 C of 12 December 1995, adopted without a vote, in which it urged that, following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference, the other applicants to date be further considered by the Conference at its 1996 session,

Noting the request of the Conference on Disarmament that its President continue consultations on a further expansion of its membership and report to it at the beginning of its 1997 session,