

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Ireland, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia,

#### Prevention of nuclear war

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing arms race,

Recalling that removal of the threat of a world war—a nuclear war—is the most acute and urgent task of the present day,

Reiterating that it is the shared responsibility of all Member States to save succeeding generations from the scourge of another world war,

Recalling the provisions of paragraphs 47 to 50 and 56 to 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, regarding procedures designed to secure the avoidance of nuclear war,

Considering that prevention of nuclear war and reduction of the risks of nuclear war are matters of the highest priority, which should be considered by the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Reiterating the vital interest of all the peoples of the world in disarmament,

Aware of the special responsibility of nuclear-weapon States,

1. Urges all nuclear-weapon States to submit to the Secretary-General by 30 April 1982, for consideration at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, their views, proposals and practical suggestions for ensuring the prevention of nuclear war;

2. Invites all other Member States that so desire to do likewise;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a report containing the views, proposals and practical suggestions referred to in paragraph 1 above, as well as those received from other Member States.

#### Non-use of nuclear weapons

On 9 December 1981, by a resolution on the non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war,<sup>(1)</sup> the General Assembly declared again that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, and that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should therefore be prohibited, pending nuclear disarmament. The Assembly urged consideration, at its 1982 special session on disarmament (p. 27), of the question of an international convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war, or some other agreement on the subject.

The Assembly took this action by a recorded vote of 121 to 19, with 6 abstentions. The text, sponsored by 30 States, was approved by the First Committee on 23 November by a recorded vote of 99 to 18, with 5 abstentions.

India, in introducing the text, emphasized that the nuclear-arms race had acquired a new momentum, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and there was greater apprehension than ever that a nuclear war, with all its catastrophic consequences, might break out. Thus; States shared

the collective responsibility to undertake all possible measures to reduce such a threat. Although the United Nations Charter permitted self-defence, it would be a mockery of the Charter to suggest that, in pursuing its security concerns, a State might jeopardize the survival of all, and that a State's choice of weapons and means of warfare, even in the exercise of individual and collective self-defence, was not unlimited.

Ireland, though opposed to any use of nuclear weapons, voted against the resolution because of misgivings about the approach it adopted. Greece abstained in the vote because of the proclamatory nature of the text and because it thought the paragraph declaring the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons a violation of the Charter, and prohibiting such action alone, left a serious vacuum and a vagueness of interpretation. While agreeing with the objectives of the text, Sweden abstained because it thought the resolution's interpretation of the Charter was not legally correct. The German Democratic Republic, which voted in favour, remarked that among those which had voted against were nuclear-weapon States and their allies, whose co-operation was essential in the endeavour to prevent nuclear war.

Resolution: <sup>(1)</sup>GA, 36/92 I, 9 Dec., text following.

Meeting records: GA: 1st Committee, A/C.I/36/PV.3 & Corr.1, 4-10, 12-26, 32, 34, 36, 40 (19 Oct.-23 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.91 (9 Dec.).

#### General Assembly resolution 36/92 I

121-19-6 (recorded vote) Meeting 91 9 December 1981  
Approved by First Committee (A/36/752) by recorded vote (99-18-5).  
23 November (meeting 40); 30-nation draft (A/C.I/36/L.29); agenda item 51 (g).

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Yugoslavia,

#### Non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the survival of mankind and to the life-sustaining system posed by nuclear weapons and by their use, inherent in concepts of deterrence,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament is essential for the prevention of nuclear war and for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Recalling its declaration, contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and which would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolutions 1653(XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979 and 35/152 D of 12 December 1980.

Taking note of the Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of a group of experts,

1. Declares once again that: