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Forty-second session  
FIRST COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 66

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Cameroon: draft resolution

Rationalization of the work of the First Committee

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that, in order for the United Nations to discharge effectively its central role and primary responsibilities in the field of disarmament and related security questions, the necessary political will of States as well as the effective functioning of existing machinery must be demonstrated,

Convinced that the existing machinery for the consideration of disarmament and related international security questions within the framework of the United Nations can and should be reinforced through concrete measures to increase its effectiveness and efficiency,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities of the First Committee as the key organ of the General Assembly for disarmament and related international security questions,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution and proposals already introduced with the above-mentioned goal in mind, including those of the group of former and present chairmen and members of the bureau of the First Committee,

Taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission, 1/

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/42/42).

1. Decides to adopt the following recommendations concerning the work of the First Committee:

(a) The agenda of the First Committee should be rationalized by grouping or merging related items to the extent possible and by setting an interval of two or more years for the discussion of appropriate items;

(b) Recommendations on procedural matters should be adopted as decisions, not as resolutions;

(c) In the interest of maximum effectiveness and efficiency, draft resolutions on the same subject or under the same agenda items should be merged, wherever possible;

(d) Repetitious texts and resolutions should be avoided as far as possible, and discussions on them should not be held in consecutive sessions;

(e) The deadline for submission for draft resolutions should be advanced further, in order to increase the amount of time available for discussion and for organized informal consultation among delegations, including the utilization of members of the bureau in the process. A period of time for these consultations should be allocated in the programme of work of the First Committee;

(f) The First Committee should have single general debate on all disarmament questions during which delegations may speak on specific issues. More time should be provided for the consideration of concrete proposals and draft resolutions in order to ensure the best use of time and resources available;

(g) Contributions to the general debate should concentrate on issues of operational relevance to the upcoming work in the First Committee;

(h) While the clustering of draft resolutions remains an important step in the streamlining of the work of the First Committee, this should not exclude the possibility of introducing and acting upon draft resolutions at any stage of the work of the Committee as feasible, in order to allow time for necessary negotiations on the more complex draft resolutions, after dealing with non-controversial matters at any early stage;

2. Requests the First Committee to implement the above-mentioned recommendations at the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

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