



United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT
DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS
Reference Library

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.35/C.2/2
9 September 1968

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Geneva, 1968

Committee 2

Working paper submitted by the Italian delegation on
the establishment of an international body for
co-operation in nuclear explosions for peaceful uses

1. The establishment of an international body - either independent or within IAEA but possessing the necessary autonomy - for co-operation in the matter of benefits deriving from peaceful applications of nuclear explosions entails the examination of many problems.

As a contribution to the detailed discussions and studies which this subject requires, some of the more important factors to be taken into consideration with a view to the establishment of such a body are reviewed below and possible solutions are indicated.

Procedure

2. With regard to the procedure - that is to say, the form and methods - to be adopted in establishing such a body, the most appropriate choice might be the conclusion of an international agreement laying down, inter alia, the statute of the body (as was done in the IAEA agreement).

The international agreement in question might be negotiated by an ad hoc international conference convened by the United Nations and, if possible, preceded by a meeting of a preparatory committee. The composition of and the time-table and guidelines for such a conference might be recommended by the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

Characteristics of the international body

3. The body should for preference have an independent status, as prescribed for other multilateral agencies such as the United Nations specialized agencies.

Another possibility, at subordinate level, would be an autonomous body within IAEA, governed by its own statute and having its own organization (as prescribed for the European Monetary Agency within OECD and, in the past, for the Productivity Agency).

Functions of the international body

4. In view of the provisions of article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the suggestions put forward on this subject by many delegations (United States, Sweden, Canada, etc.) in their statements to the United Nations General Assembly and in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the following tasks might be considered for the international body in question:

- (a) To examine applications made by contracting parties for the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes; to grant the necessary authorizations where appropriate; and to supervise their execution. Where application is made by a non-nuclear-weapon State, or by a nuclear-weapon State not in a position to carry out the desired explosion, the body will provide the necessary services by having recourse to one of the States in a position to do so;
- (b) To ensure that the benefits of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including any indirect technological benefit which nuclear-weapon countries may derive from any peaceful application of explosive nuclear devices, are available to all member States;
- (c) To ensure that the benefits deriving from any peaceful application of nuclear explosions are available to non-nuclear-weapon States on a non-discriminatory basis and at the lowest possible charge, excluding any charge for research and development, and to formulate the necessary international procedures for that purpose;
- (d) To co-operate with the competent international financial institutions in order to facilitate the solution of capital investment problems connected with the use of peaceful nuclear explosions in developing countries;
- (e) To perform any other function required to give effect to article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- (f) As soon as technologically possible, to establish a distinction between nuclear weapons and any other explosive nuclear device, so that the differentiation of characteristics may facilitate, for such non-nuclear-weapon States as desire it, the possession and independent use of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes.

Organization of the international body

5. As regards the organization of the body, the following organs might be envisaged:
- (a) A General Conference composed of representatives of all member States, which would normally meet once a year;
 - (b) A small Executive Committee with about twenty members, composed of representatives of nuclear-weapon States, representatives of those non-nuclear-weapon States most advanced in peaceful nuclear activities, and members selected on the basis of geographical distribution. The Executive Committee should have the task of dealing with applications from member Governments for explosions for peaceful purposes. To this end it should:
 - (1) Examine such applications and decide on the economic and technical feasibility of the projects concerned;
 - (2) Supervise the execution of each explosion in order to ensure that it is in conformity with the aims of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and with the objectives of the organization;
 - (c) A Permanent Secretariat.

Rights and duties of members

6. Every member State should have the right to receive all scientific and technical information reaching the Secretariat.

Every member State should undertake not to carry out any nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes in the territory within its jurisdiction unless the explosion has first been approved by the body in question.

All member States should co-operate with the Secretariat in drawing up a programme of necessary peaceful explosions spread over several years which might provide the basis of an outline plan of orders for peaceful nuclear devices from nuclear-weapon States.

Other questions

7. The international agreement concerning the establishment of the body in question might include, inter alia, a preamble and provisions on the structure of the Secretariat, the functions of the various organs of the body, voting procedure, financial aspects, any technical assistance activities, the settlement of disputes, amendments, signature, ratification, entry into force, withdrawals and so on.