CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Geneva, 1968

Agenda item 15

Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia

DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

The Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, with the participation of [names of countries] and also of France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States, was held in Geneva from 29 August to 28 September 1968.

Guided by the conviction that peace and security, like development in the world, are indivisible, and recognizing the universal responsibilities and obligations in this regard, the Conference addressed itself to the task of ensuring universal peace and, in particular, the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, cessation of the nuclear arms race, general and complete disarmament and harnessing of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, and has agreed on the following:

1. The participants of the Conference noted that there was a general acceptance of the fact that the future of mankind cannot be secure without the complete elimination of the use or threat of use of force in the spirit of the United Nations Charter. The Conference agreed that peace and progress could not be safeguarded for any nation unless the security of all nations is assured. The Conference stresses the necessity of an early solution through a multilateral instrument of the question of security assurances in the nuclear era.

2. The participants consider as their sacred duty to appeal to all countries of the world to observe the United Nations Charter and the generally accepted norms of international law governing relations among States.

3. The Conference considers that an immediate cessation of the arms race and the acceleration of the process of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament under effective international control are indispensable for the safeguarding of world peace and security, independence and economic progress of all countries.

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The Conference recommends that, pending the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, steps be undertaken urgently with a view to reaching agreements on various collateral measures.

4. In this context, the Conference has noted the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was commended by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII). The Conference considers that the Treaty should be followed up by measures of disarmament.

5. The Conference considers that nuclear-weapon-free zones, established under appropriate conditions, constitute an effective contribution to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the promotion of disarmament. It notes with satisfaction the progress already achieved with regard to nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

6. The Conference further considers that possibilities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy have increased, which is of particular importance for the economic development of non-nuclear-weapon countries and for an accelerated development of the developing countries. It is imperative to ensure conditions which would promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, encourage international co-operation in this area, ensure unhampered flow of nuclear materials under appropriate safeguards, as well as information, scientific knowledge and advanced nuclear technology exclusively for peaceful purposes on a non-discriminatory basis. The Conference stresses the importance of the potential use of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes within appropriate international arrangements and under strict international control.

The Conference reiterates the need for appropriate international assistance, including financing, for the purposes of greater application of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this respect the Conference underlines the necessity of an active co-operation and co-ordination of the programmes of all international organizations and agencies concerned with the development of developing countries.

The Conference is, therefore, of the view that all nations and particularly nuclear-weapon Powers should accordingly be urged to facilitate international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, every assistance should be given to develop the indigenous facilities for research and application of scientific knowledge for peaceful purposes to meet the challenge of modernization and progress which confront the developing nations.
7. The Conference notes with satisfaction the spirit of co-operation which prevailed among participants in the Conference and expresses the hope that this co-operation would be further developed among the non-nuclear-weapon States and between them and the nuclear-weapon States in the interests of world peace and progress.

8. Bearing in mind the complexity of the problems mentioned above and the need for their further consideration, the Conference recommends to the General Assembly of the United Nations the continuation of the efforts to deal with these problems including the convening of another Conference at an appropriate time.

9. The participants of the Conference wish to reaffirm, on this occasion also, their full adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to the obligations assumed on the basis thereof. They express their firm belief that the deliberations and conclusions of the Conference are in accordance with the Charter and the objectives of the United Nations. They confirm their determination to contribute through concrete efforts to the constant strengthening of the Organization of the United Nations and to the acceptance of its principles, as well as to the implementation of its noble objectives.

The Conference authorizes its President to transmit this document, together with the resolutions and the records of this Conference, through appropriate channels to the Organization of the United Nations.