



General Assembly

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Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 98

General and complete disarmament

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024

[on the report of the First Committee ([A/79/408](#), para. 114)]

79/241. Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the conviction that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the maintenance of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the establishment of new zones, including in the Middle East, promote global and regional peace and security, strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute to the achievement of nuclear disarmament objectives,

Recalling, including in this regard, the report of the Disarmament Commission in 1999 and its annex I, on principles and guidelines for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones,¹ among them that such zones should be on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region and in conformity with the principles and rules of international law,

Stressing the importance of the nuclear-weapon-free zones established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,² the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty,³ the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone,⁴ the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty⁵ and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia,⁶ in order, inter alia, to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* ([A/54/42](#)), annex I, sect. C.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

³ *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

⁵ [A/50/426](#), annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2970, No. 51633.



Stressing also the importance of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status,

Recalling the relevance and importance of both the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,⁷ and the Antarctic Treaty,⁸

Noting with satisfaction that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force,

Bearing in mind that in article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁹ it is stated that nothing in that Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories,

Urging all States to continue to make concrete progress in strengthening all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones,

*Noting with appreciation the call of the Secretary-General to strengthen and consolidate nuclear-weapon-free zones, when presenting his proposal *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* on 24 May 2018,*

Recalling its resolutions 3261 F (XXIX) of 9 December 1974 and 3472 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 concerning the comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,

Convinced, almost five decades after the submission of the study, when only one nuclear-weapon-free zone had been established, of the need for a new comprehensive study of this issue in the light of developments in international law related to nuclear-weapon-free zones and the emergence of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in densely populated areas,

Considering that nuclear-weapon-free zones could be strengthened by a new comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects,

1. *Requests the Secretary-General to convene a qualified group of up to 25 experts, which is representative, based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution and giving due regard to gender balance, to prepare a new comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones, aimed at assessing the current status of existing and potential nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as examining options and recommendations towards strengthening existing zones and the possible establishment of new zones, including in the Middle East;*

2. *Underlines the importance of the report of the Disarmament Commission in 1999 and its annex I, on principles and guidelines for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, in the preparation of the study;*

3. *Requests the Secretary-General to take the administrative measures necessary for the establishment of the qualified group of experts during the eightieth session of the General Assembly, including through a wide call for nominations from Member States, to work in New York for a period of three weeks divided into three meetings, with the possibility of flexible arrangements, as well as two 2-day informal consultative meetings, open-ended so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views with the Chair of the group;*

4. *Also requests the Secretary-General to inform Member States that would not have experts in the group that, upon prior notification, they would have the rights*

⁷ Ibid., vol. 610, No. 8843.

⁸ Ibid., vol. 402, No. 5778.

⁹ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

of access to the meetings, of addressing the group and of submitting to it written material;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issues that belong to the scope of the aforementioned study and to submit a report thereon before the end of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, regional organizations, organizations of the United Nations system with a special competence in disarmament and non-proliferation, disarmament and peace-related institutes and relevant non-governmental organizations to communicate their views on the issues that belong to the scope of the aforementioned study and submit a report thereon before the end of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the study prepared by the group of qualified experts to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session an item entitled “Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones”.

55th (resumed) plenary meeting
24 December 2024
