



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 89

## Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Tasha Young (Belize)

#### I. Introduction

1. The item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace” was included in the provisional agenda of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 68/24 of 5 December 2013.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 1st meeting, on 7 October 2015, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 88 to 105. On 8 and 9 and from 12 to 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items (see [A/C.1/70/PV.2-8](#)). On 9 October, the Committee had an exchange with the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and presentation of reports (see [A/C.1/70/PV.3](#)) and on 19 October it had an exchange with the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament (see [A/C.1/70/PV.9](#)). The Committee also held 12 meetings, from 19 to 23 and from 26 to 30 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts (see [A/C.1/70/PV.9-12](#) and [14-21](#)). At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 22nd to 26th meetings, from 2 to 6 November (see [A/C.1/70/PV.22-26](#)).
4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean ([A/70/29](#)).



## II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.18](#)

5. At the 20th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace” ([A/C.1/70/L.18](#)).

6. At the 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/70/L.18](#) by a recorded vote of 116 to 3, with 46 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*In favour:*

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, the delegations of Afghanistan, Madagascar and Nicaragua informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

### III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 54/47 of 1 December 1999, 56/16 of 29 November 2001, 58/29 of 8 December 2003, 60/48 of 8 December 2005, 62/14 of 5 December 2007, 64/23 of 2 December 2009, 66/22 of 2 December 2011 and 68/24 of 5 December 2013 and other relevant resolutions,

*Recalling also* the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, held in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling further* paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003,<sup>2</sup> in which it was noted, inter alia, that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

*Emphasizing* the need to foster consensual approaches that are conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

*Noting* the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

*Convinced* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

*Considering* that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

*Having considered* the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,<sup>3</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;<sup>3</sup>
2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).*

<sup>2</sup> *A/57/759-S/2003/332*, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/70/29).*

development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

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