

The issue was not raised again until 1976 when Japan along with 12 other countries⁴ submitted a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly,⁵ proposing that the Secretary-General ascertain the views of different countries on the question of international arms transfers and conduct a factual study of the issue. The proposal did not advance beyond the draft stage because of a procedural motion initiated by India for adjournment of the debate. Canada voted against the adjournment motion which passed by a vote of 51-32-33.

In 1977 at the CCD Italy proposed that the UN periodically publish data on the production and transfer of weapons and develop an effective system for processing such data.

At the 10th Special Session of the General Assembly in 1978 the idea of establishing an international registry of arms sales and transfers was mentioned by a number of speakers. However, the Final Document of the Special Session stated only that:

Consultations should be carried out among major arms supplier and recipient countries on the limitation of all types of international transfers of conventional weapons...⁶

In 1981 the question of establishing a register was raised again by West Germany but was not put to a vote.

At the 12th Special Session of the General Assembly in 1982 Japan proposed a system for monitoring and analyzing arms transfers as a first step towards implementing restraints. Italy submitted a new proposal which included suggesting that the Centre for Disarmament be given the task of maintaining a register of all international transactions in conventional weapons. Member states would provide the Centre with any and all necessary information. A statement similar in wording and intent to that in the Final Document of the 10th Special Session was included in the 12th Special Session Final Document.⁷

In 1982 the Secretary-General published the responses from various countries to recommendations in his report on Disarmament and Development. Recommendation 3 of the Report stated:

⁴ Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, and Singapore.

⁵ Document A/C.1/31/L.20, 23 November 1976.

⁶ Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, para. 85.

⁷ Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, annex 1, sect. V, subsect. C, para.6