DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS A DISARMAMENT DECADE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Indonesia .............................................................. 2
INDONESIA

I. It is recalled that in resolution 2602 E (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, the General Assembly declared the decade of the 1970s a Disarmament Decade and called upon Members to intensify efforts for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament as well as for a treaty on general and complete disarmament. Indonesia has noted that some arms control measures had been undertaken during the last decade including the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques. While the importance of these measures must be stressed, they had no discernible impact in halting the arms race, both nuclear and conventional, which has emerged as the single most important task which we are facing today. The primary objective of the decade to halt the arms race and to adopt concrete measures of disarmament was not realized. Rather, the arms race has continued unabated at an alarming rate. The deleterious and harmful consequences of this phenomenon are manifold. First and foremost, it represents a colossal waste of resources, and hinders national development efforts. The economic and social consequences of the arms race are so detrimental that it is incompatible with the efforts to establish a new international economic order based on justice and equity. Its most important feature is that it entails the constant risk of war and thus jeopardizes the security of all States. Finally, it gravely undermines the development of broad international co-operation and understanding. For these reasons, Indonesia deems it essential that the peoples of the world must be made fully aware of the dangers inherent in an uncontrolled arms race in order that public opinion will ultimately prevail.

II. In this context, progress towards the implementation of agreements on the cessation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and removing the threat of a world war is the most urgent task during the Second Disarmament Decade. Measures contemplated should accord with the priority established in the Final Document of the tenth special session on disarmament.

(a) Nuclear weapons

The task of highest priority is to negotiate treaties and conventions relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. In this framework, measures to be undertaken should include: comprehensive test ban; the cessation of the production of fissionable materials for military purposes; a commitment or a pledge by the nuclear-weapon States never to use these weapons or force against the non-nuclear-weapon States in a legally binding instrument; nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions; gradual reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons; and the negotiation of a treaty on the banning of nuclear weapons.

/...
(b) Other measures for the cessation of the arms race

Further prohibitions of the use of sea-bed and outer space for military purposes; renunciation by the permanent members of the Security Council and their allies of the expansion of their armies and the increase of conventional weapons; regional military disarmament by external powers; zones of peace in the Indian Ocean and other regions.

(c) Relationship between disarmament and development

The first Disarmament Decade's call for the reallocation of resources freed by disarmament measures to promote the economic development of developing countries is yet to be realized. The vast sums being spent in an ever-spiralling arms race stands in stark contrast to the hunger and poverty which afflicts two thirds of mankind. Moreover, the ever-widening gap between the developed and developing nations is one of the causes for tension. The international community has a moral obligation to promote the well-being of peoples and to improve their economic conditions. The Second Disarmament Decade could hardly succeed without a significant reduction in the staggering world arms expenditure. A reduction of the military budgets of the heavily armed States would facilitate the attainment of its objectives and thus demonstrate the close link between the Second Disarmament Decade and the Third Development Decade.

(d) Negotiating forums for disarmament

The effectiveness of the existing multilateral negotiating body - the Committee on Disarmament - should be greatly strengthened and efforts to negotiate priority issues, as defined by the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, should be accelerated. Negotiations outside the aegis of the United Nations - whether bilateral, regional or multilateral - should be intensified and, in view of the central role and primary responsibility of the Organization in the sphere of disarmament, be kept fully informed of the status of such efforts.

(e) Mobilization of world public opinion in the cause of disarmament

One of the fundamental truisms of our times is the choice between halting the arms race and proceeding to disarmament or face annihilation. In view of this fateful choice, efforts should be exerted to promote greater public awareness of the dangers inherent in an uncontrolled arms race with its catastrophic consequences.

III. Although the need for all States to evince a constructive attitude and to make effective commitments is clear, the nuclear-weapon Powers have the major responsibility and should exercise the necessary political will to render agreements possible. It is also inherent in the responsibility which they assumed as permanent members of the Security Council, particularly so as the United Nations embarks upon the Second Disarmament Decade. Indonesia affirms its support for proposals which might further the cause of disarmament during that decade which it hopes would make a distinct contribution to the cause of ending the arms race and achieving disarmament.