DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
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Agenda item 10

CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1990s AS THE
THIRD DISARMAMENT DECADE

Addendum

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[Original: English]

[18 May 1989]

1. With the approach of the end of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, a number of important issues are left unfulfilled. Egypt hoped that the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament would have provided an opportunity to witness the fulfilment of the objectives of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, making full use of the improvement in the international climate, and enhanced the efficacy of disarmament negotiations both bilaterally and multilaterally.

2. Progress, albeit of a limited nature, has been reached in the bilateral field, foremost in which is the signing of the agreement on the elimination of short- and medium-range nuclear missiles. In the multilateral field at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, some progress in chemical weapons negotiations has also been witnessed. The momentum to prohibit chemical weapons once and for all to relieve humanity from their abhorrent threats has heightened, as was evident when the world States gathered in Paris (7-11 January 1989) to reaffirm their commitment not to use chemical weapons and condemn such use. Egypt hopes that success achieved in this conference could provide an impetus to the efforts under way in Geneva to frame a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons soon.

3. On the other hand, effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date as well as nuclear disarmament have remained elusive in the multilateral domain.

4. No progress has been recorded towards the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The Conference on Disarmament at Geneva has not even been able to commence substantive negotiations on any of the nuclear issues. The Conference has also been slow to respond appropriately to the challenges posed by the introduction of an arms race in outer space. As has been the case for nuclear disarmament negotiations, for a number of years now, the Conference on Disarmament has been prevented from initiating negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

5. The past few years have also brought to light an increased strengthening of bilateral negotiations on disarmament. This is a trend which we welcome and encourage. However, we view with grave concern the conclusions often drawn and underscored that such bilateral progress is reason to accord priority to bilateral negotiations at the expense of multilateral disarmament negotiations, or that multilateral negotiations would, if commenced, inhibit or negatively influence the bilateral negotiations. We find these arguments superfluous, particularly since substantive multilateral negotiations have not been allowed to commence and thus should not be forewarned to have negative consequences.
6. It is imperative that we respond once again to the challenges before us in a manner clearly consistent with our declared commitment to collective action and international peace and security as embodied in the United Nations Charter. This can only be ascertained through concrete actions supportive of multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. We are particularly interested in the study mandated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to resolution 43/81 B on the issue of verification and the role of the United Nations therein.

7. The Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2) identified areas of priority negotiations in the multilateral field, which, if sincerely tackled, will help boost further the favourable international climate and achieve the ultimate goal of disarmament, that is general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Such priorities to which Egypt fully subscribes should be clearly reiterated in the Declaration:

(a) Significant progress towards the achievement of nuclear disarmament (qualitative and quantitative) and the cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament agreements between the two superpowers, and also the other nuclear weapon States, should, by the end of the present decade, bring the world closer to the objective of a nuclear free world;

(b) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and strengthening of the existing ones must be pursued with increasing vigour and determination. In addition to this, an urgent need to arrive at a comprehensive test-ban treaty should be sought in order to rid the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons;

(c) The prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and bacteriological weapons, in order to rid the world from such dangerous weapons;

(d) Progress should also be made towards reaching multilateral, regional and bilateral measures related to the limitation and reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces in accordance with relevant provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(e) The conclusion of multilateral disarmament agreements preventing the introduction of an arms race in outer space and preserving it for peaceful purposes;

(f) The continuous expansion of the arms race and its increased absorption of a great deal of human and financial resources place a heavy burden on the economies of countries, thereby putting a major obstacle in the face of their development, and create a state of no confidence among them. The Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development, which was held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987, emphasized this relationship. During the Third Disarmament Decade, efforts should be made towards implementing the specific measures adopted in the Final Document of the said Conference. Efforts should not be spared to reallocate the resources from military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the purpose of developing countries;
(g) Reaffirmation of the commitment to pursue multilateral disarmament negotiations and to enhance the role of the United Nations in these negotiations as well as in the implementation of whatever agreements are concluded.

8. Finally, Egypt hopes that the improvement in the bilateral climate as well as the recent successful efforts in solving a number of regional conflicts could give an impetus in the direction of achieving success and progress in the multilateral disarmament negotiations, thus facilitating the attainment of the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.