DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
1989 substantive session
New York, 8-31 May
Agenda item 10

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

Addendum

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1. The German Democratic Republic stands up for declaring the 1990s as the Third United Nations Disarmament Decade. It will encourage all activities aimed at intensifying the disarmament process at all levels and in all fields and making it more dynamic. There are favourable conditions for achieving this goal in view of the success recently reached with regard to disarmament, the settlement of regional conflicts and the expansion of international co-operation.

2. On the other hand, the situation in the world continues to be complicated and contradictory, the arms race is on. Therefore, the German Democratic Republic came out together with the other States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty at the session of that Organization's Committee of Foreign Ministers in Berlin in favour of further pursuing the political dialogue on the key issues concerning the development of the world. This dialogue is based on a comprehensive approach to the strengthening of international peace and security pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, with the role and effectiveness of this universal Organization constantly growing.

3. New thinking and acting are required regarding the question of war and peace. The policy of strength and nuclear deterrence must be replaced by a wide-ranging policy of confidence-building, embracing a defensive character of military doctrines based on the principle of reasonable sufficiency. The States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty submitted relevant proposals to this effect at the session of that Organization's Political Consultative Committee in Berlin in 1987.

4. The Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, which is to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, should identify the main directions of disarmament and related measures and lend political momentum to the relevant negotiations.

5. Following are the German Democratic Republic's ideas on the basic issues that such a document should include:

   (a) The objective should be to eliminate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as to achieve a considerable reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments coupled with the enhancement of relevant political security guarantees;

   (b) The Final Document of the first United Nations special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2) and the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade (resolution 35/46) are good substantial points of departure;

   (c) The implementation of the objectives, priorities and measures of the disarmament decade would be served both by unilateral steps and the comprehensive utilization of bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

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6. The concept of security through disarmament, laid down in the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, should be the conceptual basis of activities in the framework of the disarmament decade. Together with the other States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty the German Democratic Republic submitted detailed ideas on the implementation of this concept at the third special session devoted to disarmament (A/25-15/26). They have lost nothing of their validity and should be taken into consideration in the process of elaborating the Declaration of the Third Disarmament Decade.

7. Priority is to be given to measures conducive to the prevention of nuclear war and to nuclear disarmament. The German Democratic Republic comes out in favour of making the 1990s the decade of struggle for a nuclear-weapon-free world. This position is based on the world-wide realization that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The Soviet Union–United States INF Treaty must be followed by further measures on the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and on nuclear disarmament. This goes particularly for:

(a) The conclusion of a treaty on the 50 per cent reduction of the USSR's and the United States' strategic offensive weapons with strict adherence to the ABM Treaty;

(b) An agreement on a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. The Soviet Union–United States negotiations should rapidly lead to the entry into force of the 1974 and 1976 bilateral treaties on the limitation of nuclear-weapon tests and on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, respectively, and to further agreements on the substantial reduction of the number and yield of those tests. Such talks would be complemented by multilateral negotiations in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, the objective of which should be the elaboration of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests;

(c) The reduction of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, including the nuclear components of dual-capable systems, and the subsequent elimination of such weapons. In preparation of negotiations, specific consultations should be commenced in the near future between those States Parties to NATO and the Warsaw Treaty which possess nuclear weapons and those members of the two alliances possessing nuclear-capable tactical systems or having deployed tactical nuclear weapons in their territory;

(d) The stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear weapons down to their final elimination on the basis of a comprehensive programme of nuclear disarmament and with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States; conclusion of a treaty preventing the re-emergence of nuclear weapons. The Conference on Disarmament should play an active part by elaborating, as a first step, and with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States, principles of nuclear disarmament.

8. Intensive negotiations will be necessary to agree upon and implement these measures. This process could be furthered mainly by the following collateral steps:

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(a) Commitment of those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to the non-first-use of nuclear weapons, conclusion of a convention on the non-use of such weapons, and further measures to guarantee the security of States in the process of nuclear disarmament;

(b) Strengthening of the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, prolongation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons till 1995;

(c) Creation of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, including a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe.

9. The process of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, would be considerably facilitated by the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which could be achieved by a comprehensive ban on outer space weapons. Single steps, like the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and the establishment of an international system of verification of the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space, would also be a contribution in that respect. Thus, the conditions for international co-operation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes would generally be improved.

10. The international consensus regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons must lead to the rapid conclusion of a relevant convention on the basis of which the elimination of such weapons could be completed up to the year 2000. What is required is an intensification of negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to which all participating States must make their contribution. The speedy conclusion of the convention would be promoted by:

(a) The cessation of the production of chemical weapons and the commencement of the destruction of chemical-weapon stocks by States possessing them;

(b) The other States' renunciation of the acquisition of such weapons;

(c) Foreign ministers' meetings at the Conference on Disarmament to advance the negotiations;

(d) Confidence-building measures aimed at promoting the negotiations and creating favourable conditions for the entry into force of the convention;

(e) The creation of chemical-weapon-free zones, including in Central Europe;


11. The German Democratic Republic reiterates its readiness to be among the first to sign a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

12. It is imperative to enhance efforts for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. This can be done through unilateral measures as well as bilateral, regional and international agreements. A strictly defensive character of military doctrines based on the principle of reasonable sufficiency of military potentials should form the requisite basis.
13. The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe, which started in Vienna in March 1989. It seeks and works for agreements on the radical reduction of the two alliances' military potentials and on the creation of a situation on the continent in which the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty only retain such levels of armed forces and weapons that are necessary for defence, but are not sufficient to carry out a surprise attack and offensive operations.

14. The disarmament process could be phased as follows:

(a) First stage (from 1991, at the latest, to 1994): All participating States eliminate primarily the asymmetries and imbalances existing between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty regarding both force levels and the main categories of weaponry;

(b) Second stage (from 1994 to 1997): The numerical strength of armed forces on each side will be reduced by some 25 per cent (about 500,000 men) together with their organic armaments;

(c) Third stage (from 1997 to 2000): Main emphasis shall be placed on the further reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. The armed forces will be given a strictly defensive character.

15. Besides the major tasks in the field of disarmament as mentioned above, the Declaration should provide for further steps for the 1990s, such as

- Agreement on new confidence- and security-building measures in Europe;

- Limitation and reduction of naval armaments, and extension of confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans;

- Establishment of zones of peace in the Indian Ocean, the South Atlantic and other areas.

16. Efforts have to be undertaken to ensure that existing agreements and negotiations under way are not undermined or jeopardized by "modernization" or "compensation" schemes. Therefore, measures are required to halt the qualitative arms race and to prevent the abuse of the latest scientific and technological achievements for the development of new types and systems of weapons. Science and technology must serve only peaceful purposes.

17. A key element of all disarmament steps is effective and adequate verification measures. Openness in the military sphere is the basis of a real and verifiable disarmament process. It would be of particular importance for the elaboration of verification provisions applicable to future agreements to analyse the experience gained in applying the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system and the verification régime under the INF Treaty.

18. Disarmament must advance economic and social development. Special significance is attached to the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and
Development. 1\/ Therein, all States are called upon to assess their political and security requirements and the level of their military spending, taking into account the need to keep these expenditures at the lowest possible level. The member States of NATO should, therefore, give a constructive answer to the recent decisions of socialist countries on the reduction of their armed forces, armaments and military budgets.

19. In general, efforts need to be redoubled at diverse levels towards the reduction of military expenditures. In the context of far-reaching disarmament measures growing importance is attached to the issue of conversion. The United Nations should, therefore, encourage the elaboration of studies and the exchange of experience in this area.

20. The Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade should plead for the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament sphere. This applies, among other things, to the support and promotion of negotiations, the implementation of disarmament agreements and the mobilization of the world public in the framework of the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign.

21. Of particular significance for the implementation of far-reaching disarmament measures and for simultaneous steps towards the strengthening of international security would be the creation in the framework of the United Nations of a comprehensive international mechanism to monitor compliance with agreements on arms limitation and disarmament, as well as the lowering of international tensions.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.