DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
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Agenda item 9

SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO
CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

Question of international arms transfer

Working paper submitted by China

1. The question of international arms transfer should be addressed with a serious, discreet and responsible attitude. The transfer of arms must serve to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States concerned, and to contribute to the maintenance of their necessary and reasonable defence capability. No country should interfere in the internal affairs of others by means of arms transfer.

2. International arms transfer should be helpful to the people in their just struggles against colonial domination, foreign aggression and occupation and for the realization or restoration of their inalienable rights to national self-determination and independence.

3. International arms transfer should be conducive to the preservation and enhancement of peace, security and stability in the regions concerned and the world at large.

4. The strict prohibition of all types of arms transfer should be applied to those States or régimes which, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms governing international relations, subject other countries to aggression, expansion and military occupation and practise racism and colonial domination. The countries concerned should take vigorous measures to stop

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international arms transfer which is related to such illegal acts as drug trafficking and international terrorism and to strengthen international co-operation in this respect.

5. The question of international arms transfer should be addressed in conjunction with the questions of reducing international tension, removing regional conflicts, checking the arms race and realizing disarmament under effective supervision.

6. On the basis of compliance with the above-mentioned principles, the rational regulation and limitation of international arms transfer could be accomplished so as to promote stability at a low level of armament and enhance world peace and security.

7. The biggest arms supplier countries bear a special responsibility in regulating and limiting international arms transfer, and they should take the lead in doing so. The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should take the lead in adopting concrete and effective self-restraining measures, including drastic reductions in their arms exports, so as to create favourable conditions for consultations and negotiations among all arms supplier and recipient countries on the rational regulation and limitation of international arms transfer.

8. The arms supplier and recipient countries, as well as other countries concerned, should be encouraged to carry out consultations and negotiations on an equal footing based on the principle of undiminished security of all the parties and other relevant principles as contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and reach agreement on the rational regulation and limitation of international arms transfer.

9. The United Nations should play a useful role in rationally regulating and limiting international arms transfer. For instance, it should urge the biggest arms supplier countries to discharge their special responsibility and take the lead in adopting self-restraining measures; it should encourage all States to carry out consultations and reach agreement on the rational regulation and limitation of arms transfer and provide necessary consulting and technical services to them; and it should initiate studies and formulate necessary and effective measures against such arms transfer, which should be prohibited.