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

Working paper submitted by Nigeria

I. GENERAL

1. The Nigerian Government attaches great importance to the successful conclusion of the elements of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade during this year's session of the Disarmament Commission. As a delegation which was closely involved with the initiative on the two earlier decades of the 1970s and 1980s, as well as the 1985 mid-term review of the Second Disarmament Decade, we believe that the forum of the Disarmament Commission, with its deliberative functions and open membership to all States Members of the United Nations, constitutes a unique platform for reaching common grounds on multilateral confidence-building measures on the road to achieving genuine disarmament under effective international control.

2. As the last decade in this century, the Third Disarmament Decade of the 1990s acquires particular relevance. The twentieth century has been unique in history for its two catastrophic world wars. It has witnessed the history of two world bodies, the League of Nations and now the United Nations in succession, with global membership unparalleled in history. This century also brought into being, for the first time in history, atomic bombs and their use in warfare, with devastations never experienced before. With the totality of about 50,000 sophisticated nuclear weapons in the arsenals of a few countries, mankind is being confronted for the first time ever, in this century, with the reality of total destruction of all living beings on Earth, including modern civilization. Thus the choice is whether, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2), the world would want to proceed to disarmament or face eventual annihilation in the continued
spiral of the arms race. In this context, we should ask ourselves what we want the twenty-first century to be, that of global peace, security and development, or a legacy of nuclear apocalypse for our children.

3. The international community should take cognizance of the intrinsic relationship between disarmament and development as highlighted by the 1987 International Conference. Within the context of the expected Declaration of the 1990s as the Fourth Development Decade by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in the economic sphere, the Third Disarmament Decade can only be meaningful to the generality of mankind if it acknowledges also the concept and desirability of security in military and non-military dimensions. Increasing manifestations of ever-dwindling resources amidst mass poverty, ignorance, disease, socio-economic deprivations and environmental dislocations side-by-side with abundant wealth in our interdependent world cannot promote the realization of genuine global peace and lasting security.

II. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

4. Pursuant to the aforementioned background and taking into consideration the unrealized goals of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, the objectives of the Third Disarmament Decade should entail specific priorities and the elaboration of appropriate strategies to ensure that the 1990s become a true decade of disarmament and meaningful development. In addition, Nigeria feels that specification of dates or sequence for the achievement of the goals should feature in the Third Disarmament Decade. This time-frame or these targets, although flexible, would ensure commitment to time-bound programmes as an indication of the sincere political determination of States to achieve concrete results during the Decade.

5. The aims and expectations of the Third Disarmament Decade should thus focus, inter alia, on the following issues:

   (a) General and complete disarmament under effective international control:

       (i) Reaffirmation of the validity of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament;

       (ii) Strengthening of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to encompass programmes for halting and reversing the arms race, averting the threat of war, respect for the Charter, the fundamental rights of States and the inalienable rights of all peoples, among others;

       (iii) Enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including the strengthening of the peace-keeping functions;
(iv) Conclusion and implementation of effective agreements on disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, which will contribute significantly to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

(v) Channelling of a substantial part of the resources released by disarmament measures to promote the attainment of the objectives of the Fourth Development Decade and especially economic development of the developing countries. This is based on the organic link between disarmament, development and social, political and economic security in all its dimensions, as well as the rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for development;

(b) Priorities to be focused on the following:

(i) Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT): because of its positive impact on the cessation of the nuclear-arms race, as an indispensable element for the success of an effective non-proliferation régime, whose Fourth Review Conference comes up in August 1990;

(ii) Effective global prohibition of chemical weapons through speedy conclusion of a chemical weapons convention at Geneva in 1990;

(iii) Non-Proliferation Treaty: effective prohibition of the horizontal and geographical proliferation of nuclear weapons, sharp reductions in vertical acquisition, and encouragement of States with threshold nuclear programmes to accede to NPT to facilitate the extension of the Treaty beyond 1995. There should be unequivocal condemnation by the international community of the clandestine nuclear weapons programmes of apartheid South Africa, aided by some Western powers, in pursuit of an abominable racist ideology and destabilization of independent African States;

(iv) Negative security assurances: re-establishment of an ad hoc committee in 1990 at the Conference on Disarmament to deal with the subject, and conclude work within two years to reinforce support for NPT régime at the Final Review Conference in 1995;

(v) Nuclear-weapon-free zones: establishment of additional zones in different parts of the world, particularly in Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia, during the Third Decade, as well as a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, including elimination of foreign military bases in countries outside the military alliances as contributory to the relaxation of international tension;

(vi) Disarmament and development: multilateral fund to be made operational within five years of the Decade, and need to synchronize and co-ordinate both programmes for the Third Disarmament Decade and the Fourth Development Decade to be proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 to achieve their integrated objectives;
(vii) Question of new technologies for the qualitative improvement or
development of new systems of weapons of mass destruction - new
technologies not to be employed to endanger further international peace
and security, including the militarization of outer space;

(viii) Radiological weapons: prohibition of the development, production,
stockpile and use of radiological weapons, including the dumping of
nuclear and radioactive wastes in other territories with similar
consequences or effects to the use of radiological weapons;

(ix) Mobilization of world public opinion in favour of disarmament goals and
objectives through increased regional seminars, studies and other
activities by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the regional
centres;

(x) Convening of the World Disarmament Conference not earlier than 1995 but
not later than 1999 to herald the year 2,000 as a beginning of a new
century of global peace;

(xi) Naval armaments and disarmament: substantial progress in naval
disarmament, especially as it affects the security of coastal States and
global peaceful maritime transactions;

(xii) Conventional armaments reduction, including those of armed forces and
military expenditures, are complementary to general and complete
disarmament. The United States of America and the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics should take the lead in all these areas;

(xiii) Effective verification of disarmament agreements to ensure bilateral,
regional or multilateral compliance, as appropriate, and
confidence-building measures to be made more relevant to all parts of the
world, especially areas of tension;

(xiv) Complementarity of bilateral and regional approaches to multilateral
disarmament.