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Agenda item 10

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

Elements for inclusion in a draft resolution on the Declaration of the
1990s as the Third United Nations Disarmament Decade

Working paper submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German
Democratic Republic and Poland

INTRODUCTION

1. The socialist countries co-sponsors of this document advocate purposeful
action during the Third United Nations Disarmament Decade with a view to adopting
and implementing far-reaching measures to strengthen international peace and
security and to reduce military capabilities.

2. The international situation at the beginning of the Third Disarmament Decade –
although still complicated and contradictory – differs from the conditions which
prevailed during most of the Second United Nations Disarmament Decade. At the end
of this Decade some meaningful measures in the field of disarmament, to strengthen
confidence and to solve regional conflicts have been achieved. The need for
political as opposed to military solutions of contemporary problems is widely
recognized. The conviction is becoming universal that:

- A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought;
- All wars, whether nuclear or conventional, must be averted;
- The establishment of a secure peace calls for a new approach to questions
  of war and peace, for the renunciation of the concept of nuclear
deterrence, of the policy of force and the threat of force in
international relations.
3. At the same time, obstacles still have to be overcome, and it is primarily the nuclear threat that challenges the survival of the human race. Although certain steps towards the solution of some problems by negotiations were registered, sustained efforts are necessary in order to bring about a radical shift in international life, in the way of thinking and acting in regard of the fundamental problem of our time - the cessation of the arms race, first of all the nuclear arms race, and the transition to disarmament with the aim of establishing a secure world, free of nuclear weapons.

4. Therefore, during the Third Disarmament Decade a constructive and result-oriented dialogue on the key issues concerning the development of the world should be pursued, based on a comprehensive approach to the strengthening of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Such a dialogue will give fresh impetus to all corresponding bilateral and multilateral negotiations, which should reinforce and complement each other.

I. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

5. The goals of the Third Disarmament Decade should serve the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process, which is general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Their achievement would contribute to strengthening the positive trends in international relations. The concept of security through disarmament should be the basis of all practical efforts in this field during the Third Disarmament Decade, as laid down in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2), which continues to be valid today. Disarmament is the main road to security. Genuine security should be achieved through parallel efforts in all areas of a comprehensive approach to security and should be promoted by furthering international dialogue on a comprehensive approach to international peace and security. In the disarmament process it is necessary to achieve at each stage the objective of undiminished and equal security for all at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces. For this purpose, arms limitations and disarmament negotiations have to be further intensified at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. The Third Disarmament Decade should be characterized by a joint search for ways and means to materialize the concept of security through disarmament, taking into account the interests of all Member States of the United Nations, for mobilizing their will to engage in an effective disarmament process which should be continuous and irreversible.

6. Following these overall objectives the goals of the Third Disarmament Decade should be the following:

(a) Halting and reversing the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, with the aim of achieving a nuclear-free and non-violent world;

(b) Concluding and implementing further effective agreements on disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, which will contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned objective;

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(c) Consistent implementation of and compliance with the existing treaties in
the field of arms limitation and disarmament;

(d) Implementing the objectives, priorities and measures of the disarmament
decade through both unilateral steps and the comprehensive utilization of
bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations;

(e) Advancing economic and social development through the implementation of
the Action Programme adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship
between Disarmament and Development 1/ and making available a substantial part of
the resources released through disarmament measures to promote the economic and
social development, in particular of the developing countries;

(f) Strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the

II. PRIORITIES

7. The Third Disarmament Decade should serve to intensify joint efforts, at the
multilateral and bilateral levels, to solve the broad spectrum of disarmament
issues, to strengthen international security and to ensure greater confidence and
an atmosphere of trust.

8. Priority is to be given to measures conducive to the prevention of nuclear war
and to nuclear disarmament. The Soviet Union-United States INF Treaty must be
followed by further measures for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and for
nuclear disarmament.

9. Important measures in this regard would be:

(a) The conclusion and implementation of a treaty on the 50 per cent
reduction of strategic offensive weapons by the USSR and the United States, while
strictly adhering to the ABM Treaty;

(b) The elaboration and conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive
nuclear-test ban. The negotiations between the USSR and the United States 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;

(c) Further strengthening of the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear
weapons as a corner-stone of global security;

(d) The reduction of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and the subsequent
elimination of such weapons as an important step towards global nuclear
disarmament;
(e) The stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear weapons down to their final elimination on the basis of a comprehensive, phased programme of nuclear disarmament and with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States, conclusion of a treaty preventing the re-emergence of nuclear weapons.

10. Intensive bilateral and multilateral negotiations will be necessary to agree upon and implement these measures. This process could be furthered by the following steps:

(a) Commitment of those nuclear-weapon States that 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) Creation of further nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace as well as establishment of zones of reduced military concentration aimed at promoting confidence and good-neighbourly relations;

(c) Prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban on outer space weapons, the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and the establishment of an international verification system on the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space;

(d) Establishment of a world space organization to promote peaceful international co-operation in outer space.

11. The international consensus regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons must lead to the rapid conclusion of a relevant convention in order to make the 1990s the decade of complete chemical disarmament. Therefore, negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament should be intensified.

12. Measures for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments are necessary to enhance international and regional security and to release resources for the economic and social development of nations.

13. Of special importance in this context are the negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe which started in Vienna in March 1989 with the aim of elaborating agreements on the radical reduction of the two alliances' military potentials and the creation of a situation in which the NATO and Warsaw Treaty member countries only retain such levels of armed forces and weapons that are necessary for defence, but not sufficient to carry out a surprise attack and offensive operations. Efforts in the field of conventional disarmament should be accompanied by such steps as:

(a) The implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures and the elaboration of a new generation of such measures, inter alia, by an agreement on new confidence- and security-building measures in Europe;

(b) The limitation and reduction of naval armaments, and extension of confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans;

/...
(c) The limitation and reduction of the transfer of conventional weapons;

(d) The dismantling of military bases and withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of other countries.

14. Efforts have to be undertaken to ensure that existing agreements and negotiations under way are not undermined or jeopardized by modernization or compensation. Therefore, measures are required for the mutual renunciation of modernization as well as for halting the qualitative arms race and preventing the misuse 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.

15. A key element of all disarmament steps is effective and adequate verification measures. Increasing openness in the military sphere is the basis of a genuine 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 IAEA safeguards system and the verification régime under the INF Treaty.

16. Disarmament must advance economic and social development, in particular in the developing countries. The implementation of the Action Programme adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development is of special importance. 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. This can be achieved by unilateral measures as well as at regional and global levels. Principles should be implemented to govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reducing military budgets. An international fund, "Disarmament for Development", should be established in the framework of the United Nations. 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.

17. The Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade should call for the continued enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament sphere. This applies, inter alia, to the support and promotion of negotiations, the implementation of disarmament agreements and the mobilization of world public opinion in the context of the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign. The activities undertaken in this respect by the Department for Disarmament Affairs should be continued and intensified.

18. Of particular significance for the implementation of far-reaching disarmament measures and for parallel 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.
III. IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

19. In the achievement of the priorities set for the Third Disarmament Decade, all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States and militarily important States, have to make an effective contribution. The United Nations will continue to play a central role. The Conference on Disarmament should fully discharge its responsibilities as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body. The General Assembly should, at its annual sessions and at future special sessions devoted to disarmament, promote and complement this process in the pursuit of the goals of disarmament.

20. In addition, the General Assembly will undertake at its fiftieth session, in 1995, a review and appraisal, through the Disarmament Commission, of progress in the implementation of the measures identified in the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

Notes

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