1. The world finds itself today at a turning point in its development. The problem of the survival of humanity has emerged in all its magnitude. To ensure universal security is the imperative of the times. What is required is a comprehensive approach to the strengthening of international peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter and encompassing all aspects of the relations between peoples and States. Force and the threat of force can and must no longer be an instrument of world politics. Such politics must now be defined in terms of the priority of human values. The movement towards a peaceful period in the development of world society must be transformed from a developing trend into a constant of world politics.

2. The United Nations has the capacity to become the sole international centre for the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of universal security, bringing together the collective reason and will of humanity. Disarmament is of critical importance in ensuring international peace. In conformity with its Charter, the United Nations can and must play a decisive role in this process. The way to this goal lies through the internationalization of the efforts of all States, the activation and quickening of multilateral dialogue and the negotiating process. Every member of world society has the duty to contribute to the disarmament process and the right to participate in disarmament negotiations.

3. The effectiveness of multilateral efforts in the field of disarmament depends directly on the effectiveness of the work of the relevant bodies of the United Nations, above all, the General Assembly and its main subsidiary bodies, the Security Council and the United Nations Secretary-General. At this moment when the United Nations is experiencing a revival, it is more important than ever to maintain and decisively strengthen the role and authority of the United Nations and its decisions and the political, legal and moral status of the Organization, and to
ensure that the new possibilities opening before the United Nations, including those in the field of disarmament, are realized.

4. The Conference on Disarmament must play an important part in the negotiations on the most pressing problems of disarmament. The most urgent task of the Conference is to complete the work on the preparation of a Convention for the full and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons of any kind and their destruction. This would strengthen the authority of the Conference and give great impetus to its work on other disarmament questions. The Conference should give priority in its work to the questions of nuclear disarmament in all their aspects. It must become an important, permanently functioning forum on nuclear disarmament capable of working out specific agreements in that area. The machinery of the Conference should accordingly be improved. The proposals submitted to the Disarmament Commission by the co-sponsors of document A/CN.10/108 on ways to increase the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament remain before the Commission.

5. Under Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council bears responsibility for formulating plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments. The contribution of the United Nations to disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, would be effectively heightened if the Security Council, and in particular its permanent members - among whose basic tasks it is to co-operate in the establishment and maintenance of international peace with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources - took specific steps to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the search for ways to limit armaments, above all in the nuclear field. To this end, the Security Council might, in accordance with Article 29 of the Charter, establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions with regard to arms limitation. It is necessary to make full use of the possibilities of the Security Council in the field of disarmament, including the convening of meetings at the highest political level for the consideration of disarmament questions.

6. An important role in promoting the negotiation process in the field of disarmament at all levels is played by the special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. They provide an assessment of the implementation of agreed programmes and measures in the field of disarmament, determine the direction for future action and promote the expansion and strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The holding of special sessions devoted to individual disarmament problems should become part of the practice of the General Assembly.

7. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament could be substantially strengthened by making the efforts of States towards the conscientious implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament more active. The States Members of the United Nations should promote the consistent implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament, and thus demonstrate their resolve to devise mutually acceptable disarmament measures amenable to international control. It is important that consensus at the stage of adoption of decisions should also mean consensus in the implementation phase.
8. Work needs to be continued on the rationalization of the work of the First Committee, the Main Committee of the General Assembly which deals with questions of disarmament and international security. Its principal function at the present stage should be to promote the development of concrete proposals and effective measures to usher in a new world order through universal consensus and to bring about a changeover from the principle of over-arming to the principle of reasonable sufficiency, a transition from the economics of armament to the economics of disarmament and the expansion of glasnost and openness in respect of military activity and military expenditure. The work of the First Committee should be concentrated on the most urgent disarmament questions.

9. In the work of the Disarmament Commission - a special deliberative organ within the multilateral machinery of the United Nations in the field of disarmament - the positive trend that has emerged towards the drafting of concrete recommendations by the General Assembly on various disarmament issues should be strengthened. The Commission should make every effort to draw up at its main session in 1989 agreed proposals on issues that have not yet been resolved.

10. Under the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General is empowered to take appropriate action in the event of threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. All States must extend to him the fullest support in the discharge of his obligations under the Charter. The Secretary-General can contribute to the process of disarmament in particular by promoting an increase in the authority of the agreements currently in force in the field of disarmament and stimulating the development of new ones, and by investigating, on being given the mandate to do so, cases of possible violation of these agreements. In the performance of these functions, the Secretary-General should draw on the assistance of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

11. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament can be enhanced by an expansion of its co-operation with representative international and national non-governmental social organizations working to halt the arms race. One means of doing this would be to convene under United Nations auspices, after an appropriate preparatory process, an assembly of social organizations in support of disarmament.

12. Fuller use should be made of the possibilities of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, which brings together scientists from many States Members of the United Nations. One important aspect of the Board's work could be in-depth analysis of the problems of conversion in general terms and with reference to individual countries and regions, and the submission of a report on the subject to the Secretary-General.

13. The United Nations can play a decisive role in ushering in a new era of peace in the history of mankind. The strengthening of the primacy of international law in inter-State relations and of the rejection of the principle of over-arming in favour of the principle of reasonable sufficiency for defence purposes is a most important aspect of the work of the United Nations. Only through joint efforts can a nuclear-free, demilitarized and non-violent world be brought into being.