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

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

Draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third
Disarmament Decade

Working paper submitted by Canada

1. This Declaration of the Third Disarmament Decade is addressed to the entire
global community. In 10 years the world will reach the end of a most turbulent and
dramatic century: a century that has enriched human life with unprecedented
progress in science, technology, health, education and the means of communication.
It is also a century that has endured the scourge of two world wars, entered the
nuclear age, experienced countless other conflicts and has provided humanity with
the means of its own annihilation. While important advances have been made, the
full potential of human development for a large proportion of the world's
population has yet to be realized.

2. The Declaration of the 1990s deals with the hopes and aspirations of people
everywhere for the reduction and eventual elimination of means of violence and
warfare among States. The time has come to break the cycle of mistrust,
accumulation of arms, military rivalry and mutual fear, and to seek security for
all. It is time to acknowledge fully that security is being challenged by both
military and non-military threats, and to recognize that problems of a social,
humanitarian, economic and ecological nature demand co-operative solutions. The
promise and challenges of interdependence must be met through a universal
commitment to a shared human destiny. The Decade should make a substantial
contribution to this vision of security by making the disarmament process
irreversible and anchoring it to the principles of security enshrined in the
Charter of the United Nations.
3. After a period of heightened tensions, the latter part of the decade of the 1980s saw a noticeable improvement in the way nations conducted their relations with one another, particularly in East/West negotiations. In the bilateral area, a series of meetings at the highest level between the United States and the Soviet Union opened a sustained dialogue and led to a marked amelioration in the relationship between the two States. In a joint statement in 1985 they declared that a nuclear war could not be won and must never be fought and that neither State would strive for military superiority. They concluded the Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate Range and Shorter-Range Missiles in December 1987. Negotiations were initiated on a 50 per cent reduction of their strategic offensive arms. In the multilateral field too, there were a number of positive developments. In 1985 the countries of the South Pacific Forum agreed on establishing a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific and concluded the Treaty of Rarotonga. The signing of the Stockholm Document in 1986 represented a significant advance in the development of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe. In 1987 the issue of the reallocation of resources released through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development was addressed at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. Noticeable progress made in the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiations on a convention for the prohibition of chemical weapons and on their elimination was endorsed, in January 1989, by the Paris Conference which also condemned their use and called for an early conclusion of the convention. March 1989 saw the initiation of negotiations in Vienna on the reduction of conventional armed forces in Europe. The decade of the 1990s should accelerate the momentum that now characterizes arms limitation and disarmament deliberations and negotiations and introduce a sense of urgency in the disarmament process.

4. Despite these favourable trends, many issues remain to be solved. Measures of disarmament more far-reaching and effective than ever before are required urgently. The specific goals of the Second Disarmament Decade were left mostly unfulfilled, even though vigorous efforts were made in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums including the United Nations. The arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, should be halted and reversed, and the qualitative aspect of the arms race needs to be addressed effectively along with its quantitative aspect. The solution of these difficult and complex issues requires the good will of States in conducting meaningful dialogue and promoting international co-operation, including confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing trust and easing tensions between and among States.

5. In a world of growing interdependence, it is essential for the international community to stimulate and deepen awareness of the common interests of our global society and of our universal interest in strengthening international peace and security. Since the challenges facing the international community today are enormous, only collective actions by all States, based upon co-operation, can properly respond to these challenges.

6. The international community is now able to identify common goals in our search for security based on a lower level of armaments and more development. We stand on common ground in determining to make progress in the 1990s by resolutely pursuing the disarmament process in order to attain genuine peace and security. In the
nuclear field, there must be a drastic reduction in the size and destructive power of nuclear weapons, the initiation and intensification of work on a nuclear-test ban, global and regional efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation régime and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In the conventional field, reductions in many areas of the world are needed and consideration given to international arms transfers in all their aspects. In the chemical field, the Conference on Disarmament should redouble its efforts to conclude a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction. As further steps forward in a decade rich with potential, openness and transparency on military matters must be developed, the techniques of verification advanced, the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes promoted, and resources consumed by armaments reallocated for the benefit of mankind.

7. The United Nations will continue to be the focal point of the international community for fostering multilateral co-operation, wherein bilateral and regional efforts can be complementary and mutually supportive in attaining the principal objectives of the United Nations, which are international peace and security, development of friendly relations among nations and the advancement of the economic and social well-being of all peoples. The United Nations can further promote the disarmament process by building upon its past accomplishments in this field, including the disarmament strategies agreed upon by consensus in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2).

8. The Declaration affirms the positive role that an informed public can play in the process of disarmament by promoting a constructive and realistic dialogue on issues related to disarmament. Reflecting a growing understanding and commitment in dealing with the global problems on the security agenda, it recognizes that non-governmental organizations play an invaluable role. It calls for an enlarged involvement of women in developing the conditions for enduring peace.

9. As we move towards the twenty-first century, it is evident that the next generation will need increasing knowledge and understanding of the interdependent nature of life on the planet. Education on disarmament issues will play a fundamental part in giving all people a sense of world consciousness in which every individual will realize his or her role as a responsible member of the world community.