Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the
Disarmament Commission 1/

1. Mandate

The Disarmament Commission reaffirms its mandate contained in paragraph 118 (a) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament (hereinafter referred to as the "Final Document").

2. Decision-making method

The decision-making method described in paragraph 118 (b) of the Final Document should be maintained.

3. Agenda items

1. The Disarmament Commission could have a general agenda and a working agenda for each substantive session. The working agenda should be agreed at the Commission's organizational session.

2. For each session, the working agenda should be limited to a maximum of four substantive items for in-depth consideration.


2/ General Assembly resolution S-10/2.
3. From 1991, no subject should, in principle, be maintained on the working agenda for more than three consecutive years. At each session, the Commission should review, for possible reconsideration, any subject that had been suspended.

4. If no agreement can be reached on a specific agenda item, the report of the Commission should contain a joint statement or a Chairman's summary of the proceedings to reflect views or positions of different delegations, particularly in the case of those agenda items to be suspended for a period of time.

5. At its 1990 session, the Commission should make every effort to conclude all its agenda items, except the new substantive items.

4. Subsidiary bodies

1. At each annual session, the Disarmament Commission should not establish more than four subsidiary bodies for its substantive agenda items. The allocation of the agenda items to the four subsidiary bodies and the appointment of chairmen for these subsidiary bodies should be decided at the organizational session of the Commission, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

2. The chairmanship of subsidiary bodies should, in principle, be rotated each year; however, at its organizational session, the Commission may decide to extend the term of office of any chairman in the interest of effective work and the speedy conclusion of an item.

5. Duration of the substantive session

1. The Disarmament Commission should meet for a period not exceeding four weeks for in-depth deliberations on substantive items.

2. The duration of each substantive session, in accordance with the established practice, should be flexible and could be shortened. In order to utilize efficiently the conference-servicing resources available, the Commission should decide the duration of each substantive session at its organizational session.

6. Organization of work of the session

1. Each session may have a general debate on agenda items in the plenary meetings, not exceeding three days' duration.

2. Except in the case of new items, there should be no general exchange of views in the subsidiary bodies. The general exchange of views on new items should not exceed two meetings.

3. Subsidiary bodies could begin their work in parallel with the general exchange of views in the plenary meetings.
4. No more than two official meetings should be held simultaneously. This restriction, however, would not apply to informal consultations.

5. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be provided with full meeting services.

6. All the officers of the Commission should be elected at its organizational session.

7. Consultations

The Chairman of the Disarmament Commission should conduct consultations on matters relating to the work of the Commission, in particular on its working agenda, year round, especially during the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly.