Note verbale dated 19 May 1980 from the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of a number of countries, a working paper entitled "Elements of a draft resolution entitled 'Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade'" and to kindly request to have this paper published as a document of the Disarmament Commission.
Annex

Working Paper

Elements of a draft resolution entitled "Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade"

I. Introduction

The United Nations Disarmament Commission is faced with the task of identifying elements which take into account that the goal of general and complete disarmament can only be achieved as a result of a long-term, step-by-step process based on a whole series of measures in different fields.

The following principles need to be respected:

- safeguarding of security
- maintenance of balance which is a condition of security
- necessity of taking into account regional situations
- adequate international verification
- building of confidence through appropriate measures
- strengthening the peace-making and peace-keeping functions of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter.

The elements of the draft resolution should aim at a comprehensive approach, stressing that all disarmament issues must be dealt with in an appropriate context, whether bilateral, regional or multilateral without fixing target dates for specific measures.

II. Elements for the preamble

1. Reference to General Assembly resolution 2602 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which declared the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade;

2. Reference to resolution 34/75 of 11 December 1979 of the General Assembly, which declared the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;

3. Recognizing that the purposes and objectives of the first Decade have not been fully realized;

4. Appreciation of the efforts of Member States during the first Decade to achieve arms-control and disarmament measures on a bilateral, regional and multilateral level which led to

   - the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty
   - the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement of 1972

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- the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972
- the Convention banning the military use of environmental modifications techniques of 1977
- the signature of the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty in 1979
- the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

5. Achievements of first special session on disarmament, which established in its Final Document the goals and principles, the programme of action and the disarmament machinery;

6. Elements of a comprehensive disarmament programme worked out by the United Nations Disarmament Commission:

7. Conviction that arms limitation and disarmament can make a major contribution to furthering international peace and security and to the economic and social advances of mankind;

8. Observance of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations for nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States;

9. Obligation, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, the territorial integrity or political independence of any State;

10. Adherence of all Member States to the obligation laid down in the Charter of the United Nations to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered.

III. Elements for the operative part of the draft resolution

1. Role of the United Nations System in promoting disarmament negotiations and implementing agreements;

2. Information and motivation of public opinion in the world in order to maintain the momentum generated by the first special session on disarmament;

3. Continued and increased efforts of Member States to negotiate and conclude disarmament and arms-control agreements in conformity with the Final Document;

4. The need to adjust prospective disarmament measures in both the nuclear and conventional fields to ensure balance and thus avoid destabilizing effects;

5. Necessity for adequate international verification procedures, in order to create the necessary confidence that agreements are being observed by all parties;
6. Negotiations on disarmament and arms-control measures may be pursued concurrently, whether in a bilateral, a regional or a global framework, or on a comprehensive or restricted basis;

7. Stressing the importance of specific confidence-building measures, taking into account the particular conditions and requirements of each region;

8. Negotiation and approval of a comprehensive disarmament programme for which the elements have been worked out by the United Nations Disarmament Commission;

9. In order to ensure a co-ordinated approach, inclusion of the Second Disarmament Decade in the agenda of the second special session on disarmament envisaged for 1982;

10. Recognition of the close relationship between disarmament and development and the importance of using resources released as a result of disarmament measures in a manner which will promote the well-being of all peoples and improve the economic conditions of countries, particularly the developing countries;

11. Recognition of the close relationship between disarmament and international security and the need to implement all the relevant provisions of the Charter and to strengthen the peace-making and peace-keeping functions of the United Nations;

12. Undertaking of studies on disarmament and arms-control issues to identify new ways leading towards general and complete disarmament.