BASIC ELEMENTS FOR GENERAL APPROACH, STRUCTURE AND SCOPE
OF A STUDY ON CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT

Working paper: German Democratic Republic

1. The aim of the study should be to search for ways and means of intensifying
existing and starting new negotiations, in order to reach concrete results on
measures of conventional disarmament.

2. The work of the group of experts should be based on the following:

   (a) The Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly
devoted to disarmament;

   (b) The fact that nuclear disarmament has the highest priority;

   (c) The principle of equal and undiminished security of all States and their
right to self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

   (d) The principle of consensus.

3. The work of the group of experts should be concentrated on the following:

   (a) The growing danger of the arms race in the field of conventional
weapons and the importance of reaching concrete results in the limitation and
cessation of this race on a global as well as regional basis;

   (b) The relationship between nuclear and conventional disarmament;

   (c) Analysis of proposals and suggestions made by States in the field of
conventional disarmament and on recommendations for their implementation;

   (d) Freezing and reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments of
States permanent members of the Security Council and the countries which have
military agreements with them;
(e) Elaborating of proposals for prohibition of conventional weapons with high destructive capability;

(f) The international transfer of arms;

(g) Measures which can facilitate disarmament (non-use of force, confidence-building measures, non-expansion of military alliances).

4. The group of experts should be composed on an equitable geographical basis.

5. The work on this study should not delay ongoing or new negotiations on disarmament problems and should not in any way interfere with these negotiations.

6. Only data officially provided by States may be used. No attempts of comparing or evaluating armed forces of States or of groups of States should be made, since this is a prerogative of States individually or in negotiating bodies.