DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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Disarmament and development are interrelated owing to their nature and objectives. It is anticipated that reducing expenditures on armaments would release resources the reallocation of which would help to promote economic growth and stability in the world, especially in the developing countries.

In line with this practical and realistic concept, we believe that peoples and rulers alike must realize that collective security depends not on the building up of armaments but on fulfilling the social and economic aspirations of mankind. World insecurity will increase the further the goals of economic development are from achievement, because deprivation, hunger, unemployment and the lack of basic welfare services contribute to generating tension and conflict between individuals and nations.

Peru, as a country confronted with the problems of under-development, considers that the relationship or interdependence between disarmament and development should not continue to be relegated to second place, nor should the idea continue to prevail that military security takes precedence over other priorities and ultimately over development.

An international consensus is both necessary and urgent in order to stop or change this dangerous trend which encourages the arms race and contributes to the perpetuation of under-development.

(a) Evaluation of the burden of armaments in the world

The periodic evaluations carried out by the United Nations with the assistance of experts have shown that the States which shelter behind the principle that they have a legitimate right to ensure their own security have provided themselves with weapons far in excess of their requirements.

Figures and statistics show, generally and without entering into detail, that military expenditures constitute a heavy economic burden, particularly for the developing countries.

Given this situation, we believe that States, especially the great Powers, must provide up-to-date and reliable information on their military expenditures so that an evaluation can be made of the true magnitude of the human and material resources allocated each year for military purposes. This evaluation must establish who bears the major responsibility for the fact that the costs of manufacturing and improving weapons in the world are borne to a large extent by the third world.
(b) Impact of military expenditures on the world economic situation and development

We consider it desirable for the world at large to be made fully aware of the adverse effects which such expenditures have on development, effects which therefore contribute towards bringing the social and economic situation in the third world to the breaking-point.

This evaluation should reaffirm the responsibilities incumbent on Powers which directly or indirectly generate those expenditures, because, although it is true that the armaments phenomenon encompasses almost all peoples and regions of the world, the recent cycles of arms escalation are due to readjustments by the major military Powers of their strength or influence in certain zones. The effects of those expenditures are therefore necessarily related to a large extent to the causes of social decline and military confrontation.

Detailed and reliable data on the economic effects of military activities should be provided and excessive secretiveness about military information avoided, because speculation based on global calculations can lead us astray.

Similarly, consideration should be given to the effects of the international arms trade, or more precisely the international traffic in weapons, since the latter transactions, being clandestine, are not reflected in international trade statistics. The international traffic in weapons has its own economic ramifications, especially because the developing countries are the major importers.

(c) The contribution that a reduction in arms and military expenditures, in particular by militarily important States, would make to development tasks

We believe that this contribution will be possible to the extent that the resources released through the reduction of armaments and military expenditures, particularly by the great Powers, would enable States, especially the developing countries, to devote themselves to strengthening their economic and production structures and therefore to improving the social well-being of their peoples. Resources would thus be available for promoting social services such as education, medical care, housing and transport. In this context we consider it important that the transfer of resources should take the form of reallocating resources used in the armaments industry.

In addition to being an effective means of disarmament, the reduction of armaments and military expenditures would help to increase confidence between States and this, in its turn, would lead to the study and practice of better forms of understanding.

(d) Ways and means that would enable this contribution to be made, in particular in the interests of the economic and social progress of the developing countries

A full and democratic debate should be held on the social and economic implications of the arms race so that Governments can reflect on the necessity of freezing and gradually reducing military expenditures bearing in mind their implications for under-development.

The proper forum for this debate is the United Nations, whose universal membership and preparation of studies would facilitate the proceedings.

...
In this connection, attention should be given to certain principles and objectives relevant to the establishment of machinery for promoting the reallocation of armaments resources to development, having regard to the stage of development, the level of expenditures on armaments and the political and strategic situation of States.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, efforts should be made to ensure implementation of the provisions in paragraphs 84 and 85 of the Final Document of the first special session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, namely that "bilateral, regional and multilateral consultations and conferences should be held where appropriate conditions exist with the participation of all the countries concerned". Consultations should also be carried out among major arms supplier and recipient countries on the limitation of all types of international transfer of conventional weapons in the light of their implications for under-development.

Efforts should be made to ensure that specialized agencies or bodies such as, inter alia, ILO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNEP, give prominence in their deliberations to the relationship between disarmament and development so that, in their work, specific and practical attention is given to problems of the arms build-up and their ways of reducing it through the conversion and redistribution of the resources involved.

This line of action, which would facilitate the establishment of the new international economic order, must be energetically pursued.

The possibility should be explored of establishing additional development assistance programmes or funds which would operate on the basis of voluntary or compulsory contributions or of levies proportionate to the expenditures of each State on armaments.

(e) Consideration of proposals relating to the convening of a conference

In the light of the foregoing comments, it would be advisable to convene a conference to explore the possibilities and ways and means of allocating resources made available by the reduction of military expenditures.

A preparatory meeting of this conference should seek to formulate an initial series of objectives to be achieved with regard to the transfer of resources to development; the major military Powers should participate in it because of their particular responsibilities.

In this connection it is important to emphasize that the neutral and non-aligned countries should, taken together, have a representation commensurate with their respective regions or their spheres of influence, in other words, a presence at least equivalent to the aggregate representation of the Western bloc and the socialist bloc in the preparatory meeting.

This matter should be taken up first in the Disarmament Commission which could adopt brief guidelines for facilitating action concerning the establishment of machinery and the submission of several options or alternatives relating to disarmament and development.
ZAIRE

[Original: French]

[13 April 1984]

A. Since it is difficult, if not impossible, for the developing countries to have access to information on the military and armament budgets of various Powers, the Republic of Zaire would like each Member State to inform the Secretary-General of its expenditures under this heading. The Secretary-General, referring also to the already existing or ongoing studies, could prepare a study quantifying the burden constituted by armaments in the world.

B. Once the figures and estimates of expenditures are thus known, it will be possible to evaluate the extent of the loss to disarmament resulting from armaments.

C. Negotiations will have to be undertaken to determine the real security needs of States which require a minimum of armaments. This question should be considered in the light of two factors:

1. Real needs for protection;

2. The relationship between security and development: every State and in particular the developing countries have a need for peace and security in order to carry out their development tasks. The needs so determined would reveal the surplus squandered by States on armaments and provide information on their respective contributions to development.

D. Zaire takes the view that the funds thus generated would enable the budgets of the international organizations already addressing themselves to development to finance supplementary programmes.

E. Zaire wishes the discussions on the relationship between disarmament and development to be conducted in two stages:

1. A limited but geopolitically representative meeting for the purpose of determining the terms of reference of the discussion and for proposing studies and ideas and the objectives to be achieved over the short, medium and long terms;