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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Addendum

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TUNISIA

[Original: French]

[9 May 1984]

1. The Government of Tunisia firmly believes in the relationship linking disarmament and development. It sees no point in dwelling here on that close relationship, which has been proclaimed for a very long time by the international community.
2. The Government of Tunisia has consistently expressed its grave concern at the serious dangers to international peace and security which are inherent in the arms race, the diverse forms in which violence and terrorism manifest themselves and the proliferation of situations of tension and conflict in the world.
3. Tunisia considers that general and complete disarmament remains a goal to be achieved; however, it is no less indispensable, as a first step, to work towards a limitation of the nuclear and conventional arms race at the level of all countries, including the developing countries, since this would enable the latter to devote more of their efforts to their economic and social development.
4. Tunisia has already underlined on many occasions the negative impact of the arms race on the world economy and more especially on the growth and development efforts of the countries of the third world.
5. It considers that the arms race, by its nature, impedes all significant progress towards the establishment of the new world economic order, which implies a spirit of interdependence and solidarity and requires a peaceful and stable environment.
6. Tunisia is of the view that the United Nations and its specialized bodies have a major role to play in disarmament matters. Their contribution is particularly weighty at the level of world public opinion.
7. In this connection, Tunisia supports the idea of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations, a fund constituted by the savings achieved through a reduction in arms and military expenditures, the resources of which would then be used to carry out the economic and social development tasks of developing countries.

In addition to any voluntary contributions to the fund by militarily important States, other forms of financing might be contemplated, such as mandatory contributions which would be indexed to the arms sales transactions of producer and exporting countries.
8. Lastly, Tunisia considers that the negative effects of the arms race in the world, particularly at the level of third world countries, could be considerably diminished if prompt action was taken with respect to the causes of tension and if conditions for the peaceful and negotiated settlement of disputes were promoted.