DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM 4 OF THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Working paper: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. The Disarmament Commission notes with deep concern that developments in the field of disarmament since 1978 have not lived up to hopes engendered by the first special session devoted to disarmament. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2) stated that disarmament, relaxation of international tension, respect for the right to self-determination and national independence, the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of international peace and security were directly related to each other. Progress in any of the spheres has a beneficial effect on all of them; in turn, failure in one sphere has negative effects on others. The past five years have witnessed increasing recourse to the use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Open threats, pressures and military interventions against independent States and violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter are taking place, posing the most serious threat to international peace and security. The consequent tensions and confrontations have retarded progress in disarmament and have in turn been aggravated by the failure to make significant progress towards disarmament.

2. The Disarmament Commission recommends that all States should be urged to respect their commitments and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and, therefore, not to use or threaten to use any of their weapons against any State except in the exercise of their inherent right to individual or collective self-defence as provided for under Article 51 and other relevant provisions of the Charter.

3. The Disarmament Commission stresses the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, to implement the security system provided for in the Charter and to enhance the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body.
4. Guided by these considerations, the Disarmament Commission emphasizes the importance of the negotiation and the adoption of effective measures of disarmament, and for the prevention of war, in particular nuclear war. In that context, the Disarmament Commission adopts the following recommendations:

(a) All States, particularly nuclear-weapon States and especially those among them which possess the most important nuclear arsenals, should pursue as a matter of urgency negotiations to fulfil the priority tasks set forth in the Programme of Action contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session. These negotiations must take into account the legitimate security interests of nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States alike. Agreement should provide for effective measures of verification and compliance;

(b) Negotiations should be pursued and concluded, in appropriate forums, which would lead to substantial equitable and verifiable reductions in weapons, in particular nuclear weapons;

(c) A nuclear test ban should be negotiated and concluded within the framework of an effective disarmament process;

(d) Pending more effective measures of nuclear disarmament, all States, in particular the major nuclear-weapon States, should co-operate in the development of a comprehensive set of measures, for the prevention of nuclear war and of all armed conflict;

(e) Bearing in mind assurances already given, negotiations should continue on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

(f) Since the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects is a matter of universal concern, all States are urged to contribute effectively to the objective of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. States should fully implement all provisions of relevant international treaties to which they are parties;

(g) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world on the basis of agreements and/or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned should be encouraged, with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons. In the process of establishing such zones, the characteristics of each region should be taken into account. Those agreements or arrangements should be fully complied with and nuclear-weapon States should respect the status of such zones, thus ensuring that the zones are genuinely free from nuclear weapons;

(h) All States, in particular the major nuclear-weapon States, are urged to pursue their negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament with vigour and to keep the United Nations appropriately informed of all steps in this field, without prejudice to the progress of negotiations;
(i) The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America are urged to resume, without pre-conditions, their bilateral negotiations at Geneva in order to achieve positive results in accordance with the security interests of all States and the universal desire for progress towards disarmament;

(j) Determined efforts should be made to conclude urgently a treaty on the prohibition of chemical weapons, including adequate verification provisions. To this end, the Conference on Disarmament should expedite its work with a view to presenting a draft treaty to the General Assembly without further delay;

(k) The limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons should be resolutely pursued concurrently with nuclear disarmament, especially in regions where there is a concentration of armed forces and armaments. States with the largest military arsenals have a special responsibility in this field;

(l) Where the necessary conditions exist, confidence-building measures should be negotiated in appropriate frameworks for regional or global application, in order to increase trust and confidence and to decrease the risk of misunderstanding among nations;

(m) The extension of an arms race into outer space should be prevented;

(n) In the context of the World Disarmament Campaign, measures should be adopted in order that the public in all regions of the world has access to a broad range of information and opinions on questions of arms limitations and disarmament, to facilitate informed choices about these vital questions.