PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
New York, 29 July-9 August 1985
Agenda item 5

WORKING PAPER BY THE CHAIRMAN

According to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 39/160, the Preparatory Committee was given the mandate of formulating and submitting, by consensus, to the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, recommendations as to the provisional agenda, procedure, place, date and duration of the Conference.

The Committee may like to take the following considerations and suggestions into account in formulating its recommendations:

1. Provisional agenda

The general feeling in the Committee is that paragraph 2 of resolution 39/160 should be used as the point of departure when formulating the provisional agenda for the Conference, which could, in fact, closely follow the words of that paragraph. Accordingly, the following provisional agenda for the Conference is suggested:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President and other officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Review of the relationship between disarmament and development in all its aspects and dimensions with a view to reaching appropriate conclusions
5. Examination of the implications of the level and magnitude of the continuing military expenditure, in particular those of the nuclear-
weapon States and other military important States, for the world economy and international economic and social situation, particularly for developing countries and the elaboration of appropriate recommendations for remedial measures.

6. Consideration of the ways and means of releasing additional measures, through disarmament measures, for development purposes, in particular in favour of developing countries.

7. Adoption of the final document of the Conference.

2. Venue

The Conference will normally be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York or in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. If any member Government invites the Conference to be held in its country and offers host facilities for this purpose, the Committee may recommend holding the Conference in that country after satisfying itself that the venue suggested is appropriate, the facilities offered adequate and the usual United Nations practice and requirements for holding United Nations conferences outside New York, Geneva or other seats of the United Nations acceptable to the host Government.

3. Date

Given the current economic and political situation, the present is the most propitious time for convening the Conference. The momentum of the interest generated by the decision of the General Assembly to convene the Conference should not be lost by any undue delay in its actual convening. On the other hand, sufficient time must be allowed for adequately preparing for the Conference in order to ensure its success. Moreover, the time of the Conference should be such as not to overlap or come very close to other major international conferences that have been planned.

Taking the above factors into account, the Conference could be held either in June/July 1986 or in February 1987.

4. Duration

The duration of the Conference will, to a large extent, depend upon the preparatory work that can be accomplished before it is convened. If it is possible to convene one or two more sessions of the Preparatory Committee in order to do substantive preparatory work, a two week duration may suffice. On the other hand, if there are no further sessions of the Preparatory Committee and all the negotiations on the final document have to be conducted in the Conference itself, a four week duration may be called for.
5. Procedure

(a) Rules of procedure - The rules of procedure for the Conference should be by and large the same as for other similar conferences convened by the General Assembly. Special provisions will require to be made in the rules of procedure for decision-making by consensus. Provisions to enable the widest possible participation of the non-governmental organizations active in the field will also require to be made. Keeping these considerations in view, the Secretariat is submitting a paper suggesting the rules of procedure for the Conference. Representation in the Conference will be at a high political ministerial level.

(b) Structure of the Conference - The following conference structure is suggested:

(i) A Plenary, where opening and closing statements will be made and all formal decisions on behalf of the conference will be taken;

(ii) A Credentials Committee to scrutinize the credentials of delegations and make appropriate recommendations;

(iii) A General Committee to deal with the organization of the work of the Conference and generally to assist in the steering of the Conference;

(iv) A Committee of the Whole, where the reports of the Committee and working groups will come for consideration before their submission to the plenary;

(v) Three Committees or working groups, one for each of the three substantive agenda items.

(c) Final outcome of the Conference - The conclusions and decisions of the Conference can be in the form of a single final document. This can be given a title such as Declaration, as may be agreed upon. Normally, it should not be necessary for the Conference to adopt separate resolutions. However, the possibility, in exceptional circumstances, of the adoption of one or two resolutions should not be ruled out.

6. The preparatory process

(a) Additional sessions of the Preparatory Committee

It may be advisable to hold two more sessions of the Preparatory Committee in order to undertake substantive preparations for the Conference. The Preparatory Committee may, therefore, like to recommend to the General Assembly that it renew the mandate of the Committee and authorize the convening of two more sessions of the Committee for a duration of two weeks for each session. The Secretariat will submit to the Committee a paper bringing out the financial implications of this proposal. The venue for these sessions of the Preparatory Committee will be New York or Geneva, depending upon where it is possible to hold the sessions with minimum additional cost. The timing of the sessions will depend upon the timing of the Conference.

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In order to enable all the Member States to contribute to the substantive preparatory work, the sessions of the Preparatory Committee could be open-ended.

(b) Documentation

The Conference will primarily draw upon the documents and papers which have already been prepared on the subject or are in the process of being prepared. It may, however, be necessary to update some of the existing studies or documents. In addition, it may be necessary to prepare, on a strictly selective basis, a few additional documents in order to analyse the main elements of the theme of the Conference in the light of the latest developments. In any case, a short succinct document should be prepared for each of the three substantive agenda items. Such documents should draw upon the existing studies and the additional ones to be prepared for the Conference and should contain specific suggestions and recommendations. The research and academic community should be closely associated in the updating of the existing studies and in the preparation of new studies. The relevant parts of the United Nations system should be associated with the preparatory work for the International Conference.

(c) Consultants and panels of eminent experts

The Secretary-General for the Conference should be able to consult outstanding experts in the field of disarmament and development on the question of the updating of the existing studies and preparation of new studies. In addition, he should be able to convene one or two panels of eminent personalities active in this field; the outcome of their work could constitute valuable inputs for the Conference. In this effort, the Secretary-General of the Conference should draw fully upon the resources already available within the United Nations.

(d) Appointment of a secretary-general for the Conference

The Secretary-General of the United Nations should be requested to designate a secretary-general for the Conference. The Secretary-General should be of or should have the rank of under-secretary-general and should be a person who is recognized as having a high stature in the field of disarmament and development and is fully familiar with the United Nations activities in this field.

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