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UNITED NATIONS  
CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS  
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE  
ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE  
FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

WORKING PAPER

Austria, Grenada, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania,  
Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia and Venezuela

1. A primary objective of the organizational session 26-30 January 1976 should be to establish guidelines for the basic review of the role of the United Nations in the disarmament field requested in General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX).

2. The terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee are indicated in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned resolution. The text of the paragraph is as follows:

"Decides that the review should, inter alia, focus on the following objectives:

"(a) Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament, thereby enabling the United Nations to exercise its full role in multilateral disarmament efforts,

"(b) Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues, in order to keep all Governments, as well as world public opinion, properly informed on progress achieved in the field of disarmament,

"(c) Ways and means to enable the United Nations Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodical reviews;"

3. The following matters could be considered under the subheadings indicated above. The list below is not exhaustive.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

A. New approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work

- (i) Improved methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly in disarmament matters;
- (ii) The relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament;
- (iii) Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission;
- (iv) Role of United Nations in providing assistance, on request, in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations;
- (v) The relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) in the field of disarmament, in particular review of appropriate arrangements for entrusting tasks by the General Assembly to the CCD and for the format of reports by the CCD to the General Assembly, taking into account the discussion on CCD procedures to be carried out by the CCD at its spring session;
- (vi) Studies: United Nations Secretariat facilities for in-depth studies of relevant disarmament matters, including possibilities of appointing special expert groups and of soliciting assistance from other sources inside and outside the United Nations system.

B. Information

- (i) United Nations Secretariat information facilities in the field of disarmament - preparation of programme of action;
- (ii) Role of non-governmental organizations.

C. Effective functioning of multilateral disarmament agreements

- (i) United Nations involvement in the implementation of disarmament agreements;
- (ii) United Nations annual reports on the status of disarmament agreements;
- (iii) Review conferences;
- (iv) Co-ordination of ratification procedures.

4. The terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee as indicated in operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX) are not limited to the aspects described in subheadings A-C. In accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the same resolution Governments are invited to communicate their views and

suggestions on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament not later than 1 May 1976. The tentative list of points for consideration given above should be seen as an example of issues which Governments might wish to discuss in their communications to the Secretary-General. In addition to matters which are specifically mentioned in operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), the need to review the organization of the United Nations Disarmament Secretariat so that it can perform its important functions in a more effective way, should be considered.

5. In view of the proposal made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report in 1975 for a basic review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, it would seem useful that he be invited by the Ad Hoc Committee to give his views as he deems appropriate on the subject-matter by 1 May 1976.

6. The Ad Hoc Committee should attempt during its organizational session to establish a provisional agenda for its second session. An outline of such an agenda is given below:

(a) Report by the Secretary-General including:

Review of Governments' communications to the Secretary-General in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3484 B (XXX), and of other communications received;

Account of the fulfilment of tasks entrusted to him by the Ad Hoc Committee

(b) Establishment of working groups for the second session

(c) Possible new approaches for achieving more effective procedures and organization of work in the field of disarmament

(d) Ways and means of improving existing United Nations facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information on disarmament issues

(e) Ways and means to enable the United Nations Secretariat to assist, on request, States parties to multilateral disarmament agreements in their duty to ensure the effective functioning of such agreements, including appropriate periodical reviews

(f) Other substantive matters falling under the review

(g) Presentation and discussion of reports of working groups

(h) Organization of work and agenda of the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee

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(i) Any other business

(j) Adoption of the report of the second session

7. During the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee preliminary general debates should for the sake of efficiency be avoided. Substantive items should be discussed separately.

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