AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF
THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

WORKING PAPER

Submitted by the delegation of Sweden

1. Below, suggestions are made with regard to recommendations which the Ad Hoc Committee may wish to adopt as conclusions of its review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

2. It is proposed that the Rapporteur on the basis of the results of the second session of the Committee, be entrusted with the task of formulating the draft final report of the Committee for consideration by the Committee at its third session.

I. 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.

A. Improved methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly in disarmament matters.

3. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:
   (a) The Chairman of the First Committee in consultation with the bureau of the Committee prepare a precise agenda for the consideration of the various disarmament items at the beginning of each session. A guiding principle should be that matters which are closely related to each other should be considered at the same time with a view to, inter alia, limiting the number of draft resolutions presented: (Several possibilities exist for the regrouping of the various agenda items - it is suggested that this matter be solved through informal consultations in the Ad Hoc Committee at its second session);
(b) Delegations make all efforts to arrange for informal circulation of draft resolutions already when the Committee starts its work during each session of the General Assembly;

(c) The Committee fully explore the possibilities of concentrating its attention on a limited number of specific issues during each session, inter alia, through the consideration of certain items to be agreed upon every second or third year instead of every year;

(d) The Chairman of the Committee in the course of each session make proposals for further measures to increase the efficiency and simplify the proceedings of the Committee.

4. It is understood that these recommendations are intended to make the work of the First Committee more efficient and constructive and that delegations always are free, if they consider it necessary, to address themselves to any arms control and disarmament issue and to submit draft resolutions.

B. The relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament

5. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

The sections of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency relevant to the activities of the Agency related to the prevention of a further proliferation of nuclear weapons be considered by the First Committee before the entire report of the Agency is dealt with by the General Assembly in plenary.

C. Role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission

6. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

The General Assembly at its thirty-second session generally reconsider the future role of the United Nations Disarmament Commission if current efforts fail to improve the methods of work of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

D. Role of the United Nations in providing assistance, on request, in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations

7. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) States participating in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations always give serious consideration to the possibility of requesting Conference servicing and other technical assistance from the United Nations;

(b) States participating in multilateral and regional disarmament negotiations provide for Review Conferences on a regular basis and an expanded United Nations role in this connexion.
E. The relationship between the General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)

8. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The CCD report, being an indispensable document of the General Assembly, should be available to delegations in New York not later than 15 September each year:

(b) All CCD documents be made available to all Members of the United Nations through their delegations in New York on a regular and continuing basis;

(c) The General Assembly show restraint in entrusting new tasks to the CCD in the absence of concrete results with regard to present agenda items of that body, especially the priority items.

F. Studies

9. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The capacity of the United Nations Secretariat for in-depth studies of relevant disarmament matters be considerably strengthened;

(b) The Secretary in fulfilling the study function solicit assistance from governmental experts and, whenever appropriate, from other sources inside and outside the United Nations system, such as UNITAR, SIPRI and recognized non-governmental organizations who take a special interest in disarmament affairs;

(c) The United Nations publish annually or every second year a report on important aspects of arms and disarmament, military strategies, national, regional and international security problems, economic and social consequences of the arms race, etc.

II. 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

10. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The United Nations facilities for information on disarmament issues be considerably strengthened:

(b) The United Nations publish approximately three times a year a disarmament periodical of the United Nations in the official languages of the Organization. The periodical would present basic data covering the entire field of disarmament.

/...
III. 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 reviews.

11. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The ability of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the IAEA to ensure the effective functioning of multilateral disarmament agreements be enhanced;

(b) States participating in multilateral disarmament negotiations fully explore ways and means of entrusting to the United Nations the task of fulfilling such functions;

(c) The United Nations publish annual reports on the status of disarmament agreements;

(d) The United Nations Secretariat assume the depositary role for disarmament conventions and treaties.

IV. Strengthening of the resources of the United Nations Secretariat

12. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that:

(a) The resources of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of disarmament be considerably strengthened and that as steps in this direction:

(b) The Disarmament Affairs Division be replaced by a United Nations Centre for Disarmament (UNCD) within the framework of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, which should be renamed to reflect the increasing importance of the disarmament efforts of the United Nations;

(c) The Centre be headed by an official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General;

(d) The Centre be given a staff of approximately ... persons (a figure to be determined after informal consultations, inter alia, with the Secretary-General) with the task of combining the functions for committee and conference services, retrieval and dissemination of information, disarmament studies, and the follow-up of disarmament resolutions and agreements.