
I would be obliged to you if you could make available to the participants in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development the text of my statement to the final session of this conference as an official document of the conference.

(Signed) Paul Joachim von STULPNAGEL
Ambassador
ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1987

Disarmament and development co-operation have for decades been at the heart of the foreign policy of the Federal Republic of Germany. For this reason, my Government has actively participated in the preparatory process of this Conference and has made great efforts to contribute towards its successful outcome. My delegation welcomes the adoption of the Final Document by consensus. We believe that we have reached a number of important conclusions in the field of disarmament and development.

... the consensus at which we have arrived [is a] very important achievement ...

The Final Document, being a compromise, contains elements that do not adequately reflect the position of the Federal Republic of Germany on disarmament and development. Therefore, my delegation wishes to express its views on some assessments and conclusions of the Final Document. I shall ask the President that this statement be circulated to all delegations as an official document of the Conference.

It is the conviction of my Government that security on a national, regional and global level is the overall aim and the necessary pre-condition for both disarmament and development. The Governments of the world, by working towards a safer world, facilitate and promote arms reductions and contribute to economic and social development. We do not find this central role of security sufficiently reflected in the Final Document.

Moreover, my Government would have preferred a more balanced and realistic assessment of the implications of military expenditures on the world economy and on the economic and social situation of individual countries.

We are particularly concerned that the central problem of the budgetary and social effects of the relatively high military spendings of many developing countries is not adequately reflected either.

I would like to add that our assessment of the current state of the world economy is more positive than the description in the Final Document.

As regards the role of the United Nations, it is our understanding that all activities the Conference has recommended will be executed within the framework of the existing instruments and the available resources.

Finally, my Government fails to see any obligation to assess the nature and volume of resources that may be released through arms limitation and disarmament measures.
My Government also questions the existence of any mechanic link between a possible release of resources as a consequence of disarmament measures on the one side and on obligatory transfer of such resources, or part of them, to development assistance. My Government cannot assume any legal or political commitment to this effect. But let there be no misunderstanding: my Government will continue, as in the past, to accord such assistance in the spirit of partnership and solidarity with the developing countries.

It is in the terms of the principles and considerations I have just stated that my Government understands and interprets the Final Document and its action programme.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany to work for realistic steps which bring us all closer to our common goal of a world with fewer weapons, more confidence and more development in all regions.