COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PROPOSAL BY SWEDEN FOR THE PREAMBULAR PART OF THE DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT

Preamble

The States participating in this International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, desirous of:

(a) Enhancing and strengthening the commitment of the international community to disarmament and development and giving impetus to renewed efforts in both these fields;

(b) Raising world consciousness that true and lasting security in this interdependent world demands rapid progress in both disarmament and development;

(c) Directing global attention at a high political level on the implications of world-wide military spending against the sombre background of the present world economic situation;

(d) Looking at disarmament, development and security in their relationship in the context of the interdependence of nations, interrelationships among issues and mutuality of interests;

(e) Taking greater account of the relationship between disarmament and development in political decision-making;

(f) Furthering the international community's collective knowledge of the military and non-military threats to security;

adopt the following Final Document of this International Conference:
1. A fundamental objective enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations is to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversions for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. The States Members also express, in the Charter, their determination to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples. The United Nations has thus a central role to play for the promotion of both disarmament and development.

2. Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in which all nations - developed and developing, big and small, nuclear and non-nuclear - have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two pillars on which enduring international peace and security can be built.

3. The continuing arms race is absorbing far too great a proportion of the world's human, financial, natural and technological resources, placing a heavy burden on the economies of all countries, and affecting the international flow of trade, finance and technology in addition to hindering the process of confidence-building among States. The global military expenditures are in dramatic contrast to economic and social underdevelopment, to the misery and poverty afflicting more than two thirds of mankind and to the continuing crisis of the world economic system. The rate of growth in developed countries remains modest. Developing countries find themselves trapped in development and debt crisis. Thus, there is a commonality of interests in seeking security at lower levels of armaments and finding ways of reducing these expenditures.

4. The world can either continue to pursue the arms race with characteristic vigor or move consciously and with deliberate speed towards a more stable and balanced social and economic development within a more sustainable international economic and political order. It cannot do both.

5. Global interest in the relationship between disarmament and development is reflected in proposals by a politically and geographically broad spectrum of Member States ever since the early days of the United Nations. There is an increasing understanding of this relationship, in no small measure due to the expert studies and reports prepared by the United Nations.

6. The contrast between the global military expenditures and the unmet socio-economic needs provides a compelling moral appeal for relating disarmament to development. There is also a growing recognition of a strong politico-economic case for it since both overarmament and underdevelopment constitute threats to international peace and security.

7. The convening, under the aegis of the United Nations, of this first International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development is a landmark in the process of undertaking, at a political level, the multilateral consideration of the relationship between disarmament and development.

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