International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development

24 August–11 September 1987
New York


INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, in paragraph 23 of its Report to the General Assembly as contained in document A/40/51, and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/155, stated that "due consideration should be given to the widest possible dissemination of information relating to the Conference, and to its preparatory work as appropriate". In pursuance of this paragraph, the activities undertaken by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information, are described, inter alia, in the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.130/PC/INF/10. 1/

2. At its 96th plenary meeting on 4 December 1986, the General Assembly adopted decision 41/422. Section C of this decision requested the "Member States and the Secretary-General of the Conference, based on the information in the report of the Preparatory Committee concerning the results so far achieved in the substantial and organizational preparation for the Conference, to continue and intensify their participation in the final stage of their preparatory process, especially in making available their views and proposals on substantive issues, in order to ensure the best possible success of the Conference." The report of the Secretary-General of the Conference in pursuance of this decision is contained in document A/CONF.130/PC/1987/CRP.1. 2/

---

1/ See para. 8 of document A/CONF.130/PC/INF/10.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 46

3. At its fourth session held in New York from 21 August to 11 September, the Preparatory Committee adopted its report to the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.130/1. Paragraph 46 of this report states:

"The Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information, to intensify the activities designed for publicizing the Conference as a major global political undertaking. In this connection, it suggested that the themes and purposes of the Conference should be given world-wide publicity, and for this purpose all available means, including the international and national public media should be utilized. Governments of the countries participating in this Conference were urged to extend their full co-operation in this regard."

4. In implementation of the above paragraph and after appropriate consultations within the United Nations Secretariat, it was decided that given the limited time and resources available, the main tool of publicity should be an information kit intended for use by interested non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, mass media, the academic community and the United Nations Information Centres.

5. The information kit, produced by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, consisted of:

   - A backgrounder
   - A basic statement
   - Fact sheet No. 45 on The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development
   - Information Paper on Disarmament and Development: Questions and Answers
   - A feature article on disarmament and development
   - Declaration by the Panel of Eminent Personalities in the Field of Disarmament and Development held in April 1986
   - A list of background papers prepared for the Preparatory Committee
   - The report of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference (document A/CONF.130/1)

6. Four thousand copies of the information kit were produced in English and French and distributed world-wide to: non-governmental organizations which expressed an interest in receiving an invitation to attend the International Conference; research institutes and scholars who assisted the Secretariat in preparing the background papers requested by the Preparatory Committee; United

/...
Nations Associations; journals and other specialized publications; United Nations Information Centres; interested journalists around the world; and members of the accredited press to the United Nations. 3/

7. The distribution of the kits was launched by the Secretary-General of the Conference on 16 July at a special information seminar attended by media and NGO representatives at the United Nations Office in Geneva. On the same day the kits were launched at a special press briefing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. United Nations Information Centres around the world were alerted to this launch date and provided with the text, in English and French, of the basic statement about the relationship between disarmament and development, for dissemination in local languages. UNICs were also provided with copies of the press kit for distribution.

8. Extra copies of selected contents of the kit were also distributed individually. For example, through the Feature Service of the Department of Public Information, some 3,000 copies of the feature article on the relationship between disarmament and development were distributed in English, French and Spanish to media and publications of NGOs, world-wide. Some 3,000 copies of the backgrounder and basic statement, and hundreds of copies of the information booklet on questions and answers about disarmament and development, were also distributed separately.

9. The Secretary-General of the Conference addressed letters to the members of the United Nations Task Force for the Conference and the Focal Points within the United Nations system on Disarmament and Development drawing their attention to paragraph 46 of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the International Conference. 4/ Over 1,000 non-governmental organizations and 150 research institutes worldwide were similarly informed. The United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation have informed the Secretariat of various reports and statements in which attention was drawn to the relevant aspects of the subject of the relationship between disarmament and development. Several scholars and research institutes are continuing to send the Secretariat their publications related to the themes and purposes of the Conference. Some specialized newspapers, like the Disarmament Times, for example, plans to publish special issues to cover the International Conference.

3/ For a list of background papers prepared by the Secretariat, see paras. 12, 25 and 39 of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference, document A/CONF.130/1.

4/ For the composition of the United Nations Task Force for the Conference and the mandate for Focal Points within the United Nations system on Disarmament and Development, see paras. 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference to the General Assembly, document A/40/913.
10. The Secretary-General of the Conference participated in several media events which included interviews to newspapers, radio and television. Among the various gatherings he addressed was a major conference held in Stockholm in May 1987 organized with the support of the Government of Sweden and co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Disarmament and Development at Geneva, the United Nations Association of Sweden and the Swedish Peace Council.

11. The staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs has also continued its efforts for giving appropriate publicity to the theme and purposes of the Conference. These include keynote addresses at seminars and conferences, lectures to university students and fellows of United Nations internship programmes, press briefings, meetings with editorial boards of national and international newspapers and magazines, radio and TV interviews.

12. In order to apprise NGOs fully of all matters related to their participation in the Conference, orientation sessions were held immediately prior to the Conference. Other briefings are being held during the Conference to keep NGOs informed of the developments of the Conference and answer their questions regarding practical arrangements and/or substantive issues.

13. A special briefing covering the issues before the Conference was held for members of the international news media covering the Conference at United Nations Headquarters on the opening morning of the Conference. Daily briefings for the news media are being held throughout the Conference.

14. The Department of Public Information's TV and Radio Services is providing daily TV and radio feeds to hundreds of radio stations in all regions of the world as well as to interested TV stations on the work and activities of the International Conference.

15. The United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in New York has also played an active role in providing information and assisting NGOs in the field of development in connection with the International Conference. Various publications were produced by NGLS on the issue of disarmament and development which have been continuously distributed to the media, development educators, NGOs and other interested constituencies.

16. Many activities in connection with the International Conference have been carried out by the non-governmental community also in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information. In this connection, it should be noted that the NGO Committees on Disarmament, and Development at the United Nations Headquarters, have formed an NGO Task Force to co-ordinate and facilitate the holding of parallel activities sponsored by NGOs during the Conference. The NGO Task Force sponsored an NGO Forum in April 1986 at United Nations Headquarters. In April 1987, a one-day NGO consultation was held at the United Nations in New York, and special briefings were held at Headquarters, in June, and the United Nations Office at Geneva in July.

17. The World Women Parliamentarians devoted their third annual conference to disarmament and development. Held in Mexico in June 1987 in co-operation with the Mexican Senate, it was attended by women parliamentarians from 60 countries who...
signed a scroll supporting the themes and purposes of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The scroll was presented to the President and the Secretary-General of the International Conference at United Nations Headquarters on 26 August 1987.

18. In Rotterdam, the Netherlands, a seminar was held in July 1987 as part of the Dutch national preparations for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. It was organized by the Dutch National Committee on Development in co-operation with Pax Christi.

19. Other NGO activities focusing on disarmament and development included a conference on Security in the Nuclear Age held in Pasadena, California, in May 1987.