PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
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ELEMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Working paper submitted by the Chinese delegation

1. Peace and development are two cardinal issues facing mankind today. The drive
for disarmament constitutes an essential part in the cause of maintaining world
peace. The successful accomplishment of disarmament and development will not only
benefit international peace and security, but also promote progress and prosperity
of all countries in the world.

2. Peace is a prerequisite for achieving development, while development is a
guarantee for maintaining peace. Disarmament and development serve to enhance
security. Security in turn promotes disarmament and development. All three are of
mutual causality in their interrelationship. None of them should be
over-emphasized to the neglect of the others. Nor should temporary slow progress
in one area of endeavour be used to justify abandoning efforts in the others. The
international community should work simultaneously in all the three areas.

3. There exists a close relationship between disarmament and development. For a
country, disarmament means that it could devote a greater part of its limited
resources to socio-economic development. At the international level, the reduction
of military expenditures, the cessation of the arms race and the realization of
disarmament would help release valuable resources of great magnitude for the
benefit of the social and economic development of all countries.

4. A peaceful and secure international environment is indispensable for any
country to achieve development. To maintain international peace and security, it
is necessary to oppose the threat or use of force in international relations, to
oppose acts of any country in any form to interfere in other countries' internal
affairs and encroach upon their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and, in particular, to oppose acts of armed aggression against and occupation of other countries. This is so, for these acts constitute direct obstruction and threat to international peace and security.

5. Meanwhile, the aggravating gap between the North and the South, and the irrationality in international economic relations also hamper the efforts to maintain international peace and security. To change such a state of affairs is not only the objective of development, but also the necessary condition for ensuring the international peace and security.

6. The arms race since the Second World War has largely been a race between the two super-Powers. The two countries, possessing the largest nuclear as well as conventional arsenals, lead the world in military expenditure and are also the largest arms exporters. Their huge arsenals, military spendings and armed forces, far exceeding the need for national defence, have not only hindered the socio-economic development of their own countries, but also caused tensions in international relations, thus posing a grave threat to the social and economic development of the whole world, particularly that of the developing countries. Therefore, as these two countries bear a special responsibility for halting the arms race and reducing armament, they also bear the primary responsibility for assisting development. They should take the lead in cutting back on their military spendings and weaponry, and devote part of the resources thus released to assisting the developing countries. Other countries, particularly the militarily significant ones, should also exercise restraint on their own military expenditures as far as possible, with a view to promoting the socio-economic development of their own countries and increasing, where possible, their assistance to the developing countries.

7. In the face of the escalating arms race between the super-Powers and its threat to international peace and security, and while certain countries are being subjected to foreign aggression and expansion, the countries concerned are entitled to maintain a necessary defence capability in order to safeguard their independence and sovereignty and ensure their socio-economic development. Such efforts, however, should not go beyond the reasonable need for their national defence.