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United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 28 officials in 2001 and 30 officials in 2002. Pursuant to relevant legislative mandates, the Secretary-General endeavoured to encourage Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, five women participated in the programme in 2001 and eight are expected to participate in the 2002 programme. In 2001, the programme lasted 10 weeks, from 3 September to 9 November. In 2002, the programme is again scheduled for 10 weeks, from 2 September to 8 November.

The programme of studies continued to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. The second segment comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation, including study visits to Germany and Japan, to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, and to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The third segment is held at United Nations Headquarters and is intended to allow the fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of both the First Committee and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. This segment

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also includes seminars organized by the Centre for Non-proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, as well as a presentation organized by the United States Department of State.

To date, the programme has trained some 600 officials from about 150 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme continues to contribute to enhancing expertise in disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries, and to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/34 C, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the programme and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. It should be noted that, pursuant to agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council and paragraph 2.6 of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, programme 2, disarmament (A/55/6 (Prog. 2)), the Secretary-General has endeavoured to encourage Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, five women participated in the programme in 2001 and eight are expected to participate in 2002.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. 2001 and 2002 fellowships

3. Twenty-eight fellowships were awarded in 2001. The names and nationalities of the officials who benefited from the programme in 2001 are:

Luciano Tanto Clement	Argentina
Vasily Pavlov	Belarus
Solange Bogore	Burkina Faso
James Gabche	Cameroon
Xu Wenlei	China
Juan José Páez Pinzón	Colombia
Norman Lizano Ortiz	Costa Rica
Sherif Ahmed Rifaat	Egypt
Giorgi Muchaidze	Georgia
Mohamed Aly Diallo	Guinea
Vinay Mohan Kwatra	India
Behnam Bolourian	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Maya Kadosh	Israel
Tatsuo Nagai	Japan
Fahmi Elziani	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Rosita Šorytė	Lithuania

Sidi Ould Mohamed Lagdhaf	Mauritania
José Antonio Balmaceda	Nicaragua
Silas S. Anche	Nigeria
Mohammed Aqeel Ba-Omar	Oman
Paul Duclos Parodi	Peru
Grzegorz Poznanski	Poland
Israel B. K. Jigba	Sierra Leone
Nontombi Makupula	South Africa
Sara Uddenberg	Sweden
Tchabode Adjagba Sebabe	Togo
Le Huy Hoang	Viet Nam
Marko Samardžija	Yugoslavia (Federal Republic of)

4. On 12 July 2002, the participation in the 2002 programme of the following 30 officials from Member States had been confirmed by their respective Governments:

Cameron R. Archer	Australia
Emil Gasimov	Azerbaijan
Mohammad Allama Siddiki	Bangladesh
Rodrigo Toledo Bastidas	Chile
Nouho Kateba Coulibaly	Côte d'Ivoire
Petar Mihatov	Croatia
Modeste Boningo Bokumgu	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Assefa Delil Hassen	Ethiopia
Ingo Stender	Germany
Sara Angelina Solís Castañeda	Guatemala
Márk Horváth	Hungary
Mohammad Ichsan	Indonesia
Sofia Renata McGregor	Jamaica
Mohammed Ali AL-Nsour	Jordan
Jane Muthoni Kahuki	Kenya
Anouparb Vongnorkeo	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Memory D. Chibwana	Malawi
Riedzal Adul Malek	Malaysia
Jorge Luis Hidalgo Partida	Mexico
Jamal Maatougui	Morocco
Htin Kyaw	Myanmar
J. Marvin T. Ngirutang	Palau

Carla Ivette Pousa Caride	Panama
Ji-hee Kim	Republic of Korea
Alberto Neto Pereira	Sao Tomé and Principe
Adil Y. Bannaga	Sudan
Ahmad Al Hariri	Syrian Arab Republic
Mouna Mcharek	Tunisia
Fatma Ömür Yurdakul	Turkey
Olesia Perevezentseva	Ukraine

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. In 2001, the programme lasted 10 weeks, from 3 September to 9 November. In 2002, the programme is scheduled to be carried out again for 10 weeks, from 2 September to 8 November. The programme of studies is structured in three segments. The activities that follow were included in the 2001 programme and, after the necessary updating, are also expected to be carried out in 2002.

First segment

6. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. This is accomplished through both attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and participation in lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference and senior representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. In 2001, the fellows also had the opportunity to participate in lectures by the President of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, the President of the second meeting of the States parties to the Mine-Ban Convention, and the President of the Second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

7. While in Geneva, fellows are also required to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and security, which provides

them with a unique opportunity to experience the conduct of research and drafting under guidance and in a focused manner. In the preparation of research papers, fellows are encouraged to utilize the library of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the reference library of the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at United Nations Headquarters.

8. In addition, a practical exercise on the preparation of draft resolutions for the First Committee starts in Geneva and is concluded in New York, after exposure to the proceedings of the First Committee. The exercise includes a moderated discussion on the drafts prepared by the fellows, the introduction of amendments and revisions and taking action on draft resolutions.

Second segment

9. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and to Member States, at their invitation.

10. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, fellows are briefed on the work of the organization; the genesis and status of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the verification procedures of the Convention; the work of the inspectorate and the inspection process; international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention; and the role of non-governmental organizations.

11. The study visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization includes presentations on the work of that organization, an introduction to the International Monitoring System and a guided visit to the International Data Centre. In 2001, fellows were also briefed on the preparations for the Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was to be held at New York from 11 to 13 November 2001.

12. The study visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna comprises an introduction to non-proliferation and nuclear reactors, as well as presentations and briefings on such topics as the role of nuclear power in sustainable development; the new strengthened safeguards system and examples of verification in Member States; verification of

weapons origin and other fissile material released from defence programmes in nuclear-weapon States; and safeguards activities, inspections and nuclear safety activities of IAEA. Visits to the IAEA laboratories at Seibersdorf and the Austrian Nuclear Research Reactor of the Vienna Universities are organized, and relevant documentary films illustrating the work of IAEA are also shown.

13. Following a tradition of many years, Germany and Japan continue to invite participants in the programme of fellowships on disarmament for study visits to national institutions and for focused discussions with officials of the respective Governments. The study visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

14. The study visit to Germany in 2001 included briefings by and a round-table discussion with senior officials of the Department for Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. A guided, highly informative excursion to a conversion plant (Nammo Buck GmbH) in Pinnow completed the study visit to Germany. A study visit by the fellows to Germany in 2002 is scheduled and is expected to include similar activities.

15. The Government of Japan and the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima continued to organize valuable activities for fellows in 2001. In Tokyo, fellows were briefed by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Japan's disarmament policy, and met with the officials from the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, fellows were received by local officials, visited memorial sites relating to atomic bombing, such as the Atomic Bomb Museum, the Peace Park and the Atomic Bomb Home for the Elderly in Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima. The fellows also met with survivors of the atomic bombing, heard lectures on the social and medical legacies of the atomic bombing and participated in a seminar with the researchers of the Hiroshima Peace Institute. The study visit to Japan in 2002 is expected to include similar activities.

Third segment

16. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters and is intended to allow

fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of both the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The segment includes a second cycle of lectures by members of delegations to the First Committee and United Nations officials on items on the agenda of the Committee and the work of the various branches of the Department, as well as regular attendance at meetings of the Committee. The fellows also attend symposia and panel discussions sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament.

17. In 2001, events sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs included a symposium on terrorism and disarmament, a panel discussion on "Global security in the twenty-first century" and a discussion on the theme "Lessons for today from the Cuban missile crisis". The fellows also took part in a two-day seminar organized by the Center for non-proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies on various aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, including the possible impact of terrorism in this field, and a presentation organized by the United States Department of State on its arms control objectives in a new era and on the dynamics of multilateral diplomacy in the First Committee of the General Assembly.

18. While in New York, the fellows also participate in group discussions moderated by the coordinator of the programme. Two or three fellows are requested in advance to prepare short presentations on a selected topic. The presentation is then followed by an open discussion with all the other fellows. In addition, the fellows finalize their research papers and make short presentations of their main theses, which are then discussed by the other fellows.

III. Conclusion

19. **The programme, which started in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978, is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries. Throughout its 24 years of existence, the programme has trained 586 officials from 148 Member States, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The large number of**

nominations for the programme received every year by the Department for Disarmament Affairs are a testimony of the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. The Member States have on several occasions acknowledged the successful implementation of the programme and its role in enhancing the capabilities of public officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. Also, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services, in its evaluation of the whole disarmament programme, identified the fellowship programme on disarmament as the most successful United Nations training programme it had reviewed (see E/AC.51/1999/2, para. 61).

20. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme of fellowships on disarmament continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels. The cultural and political diversity of the participants in the programme facilitates a better understanding of disarmament security concerns of the international community and enhances their motivation for pursuing disarmament and arms limitation goals in a cooperative and constructive manner.

21. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. The Secretary-General is particularly grateful to the Government of Germany for hosting the participants of the programme since 1980 and to the Government of Japan on the occasion of its twentieth annual study visit for the fellows, which includes events in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.