



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/575
26 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
RUSSIAN/SPANISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 70

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PREPARATION
OF SOCIETIES FOR LIFE IN PEACE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	4	3
Bulgaria		3
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic		5
Dominican Republic		7
Iraq		7
Mexico		7
Panama		9
Poland		10
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic		12
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics		14
United Arab Emirates		15

CONTENTS(continued)

	-	P a n e	
III. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	5 - 7		17
IV. FUTURE ACTION	8 - 9		18

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (General Assembly resolution 33/73) was adopted by the Assembly on 15 December 1978. The Declaration set forth principles for enhancing the process of preparing societies for common existence and co-operation in peace, equality, mutual confidence and understanding. The Secretary-General was requested by the Assembly to follow the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and to submit periodic reports thereon.
2. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/91 of 7 December 1987, in which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/668), urged all States to continue their efforts towards the fullest implementation of the Declaration, recommended that all Governments and appropriate institutions, while elaborating their policies, in particular their education programmes and school curricula, should keep in mind the principles contained in the Declaration, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the Declaration to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.
3. In a note verbale dated 6 April 1990 the Secretary-General invited all States to communicate to him relevant information on the implementation of the Declaration. As at 18 September, 10 Member States and 2 organizations of the United Nations system had communicated to the Secretary-General the requested information.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

4. The following replies were received from Governments in response to the Secretary-General's request for information (see pars. 4). Where replies exceeded 80 lines only excerpts are included here.

BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[14 August 1990]

1. The Government of Bulgaria regards the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace as one of the most important United Nations documents (...). In the present context of the transition from confrontation and "cold war" to positive dialogue, to real steps towards solving international conflicts and towards co-operation in international affairs, the Declaration is acquiring renewed relevance and significance. New and favourable conditions are being created and the prospects for its implementation in practical terms are being increased through the policies being pursued by many countries.

2. New developments in today's world are being encouraged basically by the efforts of democratically thinking people everywhere and by those political figures in the East and the West who are concerned for the survival and progress of mankind. The United Nations, whose authority and significance are generally acknowledged to be increasing, occupies a special place and role in this connection.

3. Bulgaria is also carrying out radical transformations in accordance with the new spirit of comity between States and peoples. Such changes are aimed at enhancing the role of the individual in society, improving the conditions of economic activity, comprehensively strengthening States based on the rule of law and democratising all areas of public life.

4. In foreign policy Bulgaria favours constructive co-operation with all democratic Governments and with international organisations. At the same time, thanks to the democracy that is developing in the life of the Bulgarian people, approaches are being freed of ideological clichés and irrelevancies. The domestic and foreign policies of the country are more and more perceptibly being guided and dictated by universal human values and ideals, prominent among them the need to preserve international peace. (...)

5. The policy of the Bulgarian Government is consonant and in close harmony with the principles and activities of the United Nations in the fields of education, science and culture. It is designed to inculcate in the rising generation an understanding of the need to fight for peace and disarmament and to eliminate all forms of social and national oppression and racial, religious and ethnic animosity.

6. That these priorities were set forth in the electoral platforms of the major political forces in the country attests to and provides a guarantee of the solid and deep commitment of the general public in Bulgaria to peace. Bulgaria actively supports the World Disarmament Campaign, and has given its Government a mandate to participate in all significant world disarmament forums. Every year the country conducts extensive and meaningful activities in observance of Disarmament Week.

7. Bulgaria is taking substantive and tangible steps to increase the confidence of States in its peaceful foreign policy. In 1988 it announced a unilateral reduction of armed forces and armaments. In 1990 data on the country's military budget were published for the first time. Bulgaria was a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 44/116 on the conversion of military resources. Forty per cent of the country's defence industry has already been converted to the production of consumer goods. (...)

8. (...) After 10 November 1989 the country's People's Assembly and Government radically changed the country's human rights policy. These measures gave every Bulgarian citizen the right freely to leave the country, to live abroad and to return, and guarantee to all citizens freedom of speech, the press, conscience and religion and the free exercise of their customs and religious practices, freedom to use their native languages and allow their own way of life, etc. (...)

9. As a Warsaw Treaty State Bulgaria supports the idea of refashioning the military and political alliances in Europe. The country is participating constructively in the Vienna negotiations on conventional weapons and Confidence-

and security-building measures in Europe. We place great hope in the forthcoming summit of the CSCE States (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) in Paris in November 1990 (...).

10. As a Balkan State, Bulgaria is striving to pursue a constructive policy of good will with all its neighbours. The Government is making effort⁸ to assert generally accepted principles and norms of international law in its relations with them as the only reasonable approach to guaranteeing our interests and security in the region.

11. Bulgaria is prepared to continue to co-operate actively with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and with all Member States in implementing the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[16 August 1990]

1. In the Byelorussian SSR, activities to promote peace and efforts to instil peace-loving attitudes in society are being carried out in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 42/91 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace". These activities involve broad sectors of the population and are being carried out by both public and governmental organizations. Particular attention is being paid to the task of educating the rising generation in a spirit of peace.
2. The Byelorussian Peace Committee, the Byelorussian section of the Soviet Peace Fund, the Byelorussian Society for Cultural Ties with Byelorussians Abroad, the Byelorussian Fund for Culture and other public organizations, including trade unions, youth and veterans' organisations and unions of creative workers, are all actively involved in the above activities.
3. Regional peace committees have been set up to co-ordinate anti-war activities in the Byelorussian SSR. Peace committees have been formed in major enterprises and in educational institutions. (...)
4. Popular diplomacy (...) plays a very important role in overcoming the image of the other as the enemy, thereby building confidence and ultimately peace. This factor is given considerable weight in peace efforts by Byelorussian peace activists.
5. The Byelorussian SSR keeps the United Nations regularly informed about its efforts in this direction. The national and local mass media also report regularly and extensively on peace activities by the general public.
6. For many years now, a systematic effort has been under way in the Byelorussian SSR to educate students in a spirit of peace and mutual understanding among nations.

7. The date of 1 September occupies an important place in the activities of peace advocates in the Byelorussian SSR, where it has become a tradition to observe the day as World Peace Day and as a day of trade union peace actions. The day begins with a peace lesson which is taught in every school during the very first hour of classes on the first day of school.

8. A number of new, far-reaching measures for the advancement of peace have also been adopted.

9. Major changes have been made in the curricula of general secondary schools. New trends in the history curriculum include giving priority to universal values and interests over narrow, national ones; erosion of the "image of the enemy" (...), and education of schoolchildren in a spirit of peace and co-operation, mutual understanding and respect among nations (...).

10. The social science course for general education schools, special secondary schools and vocational and technical schools now includes an objective analysis of different socio-political and economic systems and their specific features at the present time. (...)

11. As of 1 January 1988, basic military training for girls was abolished in all educational institutions. Starting with the 1990/91 academic year, the training programme to prepare young men for service in the armed forces will be reviewed: the amount of time allocated to such training is being sharply reduced and its content is being changed. (...)

12. Social science teaching at the university level is also undergoing major changes. Standard features of these changes are:

(a) A course to shape a new political thinking in students, key elements of which are dialogue, compromise and respect (...);

(b) Support for the building of a common European home and substantiation of that concept!

(c) A new interpretation of the experience of international social democracy and, primarily, of the policy of non-forcible action;

(d) Gradual humanization of education on the basis of universal values;

(e) Overcoming the "image of the enemy" (...).

13. The creation of the Byelorussian Association of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) clubs in December 1989 was a further practical step towards educating young people in a spirit of peace. The Byelorussian project of associated UNESCO schools served as the foundation for the Association, whose purpose is to co-ordinate the joint activities of the Byelorussian UNESCO clubs and to organize public support in the Byelorussian SSR for UNESCO's efforts.

14. In the area of pre-school education, the holding of a "Peace Toys Week" in 1989, in which almost all the country's pre-school establishments took part, was a major event. A similar event is planned for September 1990.

15. In mid-May 1990, the constituent conference of a national movement called ****Teachers for Peace and Mutual Understanding** was held at the initiative of the Ministry of National Education of the Byelorussian SSR. (...)

16. The Byelorussian United Nations Association, set up in September 1989, has begun to play an active role in the spirit of preparing society for life in peace in accordance with the ideals of the United Nations.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[Originals Spanish]

[11 July 1990]

The Government of the Dominican Republic has been implementing the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, since one of its fundamental objectives is indeed that peace shall reign. The Government not only fosters the implementation in the Dominican Republic, but also urges all other nations to implement the Declaration as well, based on its view that without peace there can be no development.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[29 May 1990]

Iraq emphasiaee its earlier statement regarding the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace as provided in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (A/42/668).

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

(11 July 1990]

1. The peace-oriented approach followed by the Government of Mexico is reflected in its firm adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which in turn fully coincides with the principles of its foreign policy.

2. Furthermore, as was pointed out in 1987 (see A/42/668), "the implementation of the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for

/...

Life in Peace is an integral part of Mexico's policy". The Mexican Government, which is convinced of the applicability of those principles, has continued to broaden its policy in favour of peace in accordance with the Declaration.

3. Accordingly, Mexico has carried out intensive diplomatic efforts to promote general and complete disarmament, particularly within the United Nations, where it has sponsored important resolutions such as the one entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water", in whose sponsorship Mexico was joined by Indonesia, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. As a result of the adoption of that resolution, the States parties to the Treaty, after intensive negotiations, decided to hold the amendment conference in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991 preceded by an organizational meeting for the Conference from 20 May to 8 June 1990. Mexico has also carried out important work under various initiatives aimed at promoting constructive dialogue between the two major Powers.

4. In addition, during the three-year period from 1987 to 1990, the Government of Mexico has continued to support initiatives designed to strengthen the United Nations; it has reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and norms of international law through its foreign policy and has supported the world Organisation in its efforts to combat the vestiges of colonialism and racial discrimination.

5. Similarly, the Government of Mexico has repeatedly stated that regional conflicts must be resolved through peaceful means and negotiations before they become a threat to international peace and security.

6. Lastly, but no less importantly, the Government of Mexico, which is aware of its essential role in fostering the ideals of peace and understanding among individuals and nations, has promoted an educational policy designed at all levels to prepare society for life in peace, without distinction as to race or social class and in accordance with the principles set forth in the Declaration,

7. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that in 1988 the Government of Mexico accorded constitutional status to its foreign policy principles so that now the Constitution lists among the powers and duties of the President:

"To direct foreign policy and conclude international treaties, submitting them for adoption by the Senate. In the conduct of this policy, the holder of the Executive Power shall observe the following normative principles: the self-determination of peoples, non-intervention, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations, the legal equality of States, international co-operation for development and the struggle for international peace and security."

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[22 June 1990]

1. **Conscious of the fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol thereto and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are international instruments designed to protect and promote human rights, the Government of the Republic of Panama has signed these instruments in order to guarantee to the Panamanian people respect for and the dignity of the human person.**
2. **The provisions of the Covenants have been and remain a part of Panama's domestic law and have binding force. Consequently, these provisions may be invoked before the law courts and the latter may apply them directly. (...)**
3. **The Political Constitution sets forth the principle of the right to equal education (...). The Constitution also provides that education must be democratic and based on the principles of human solidarity and social justice,**
4. **The Republic of Panama reaffirms the right of individuals, States and all mankind to live in peace and shares the generally accepted view that the arms race is in every way inimical to efforts to foster a stable and secure international climate and that it is therefore a significant factor in increasing international tension.**
5. **Panama has reaffirmed, in every international forum, its most steadfast support for efforts and initiatives to reduce the threat of nuclear war and to promote bilateral and multilateral disarmament agreements as part of efforts towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.**
6. **Panama holds that all States have the right to receive firm and unconditional guarantees that they will not be subjected to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons through the adoption of verification measures which satisfy all the parties concerned (...). Verification is therefore an essential factor in negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament.**
7. **Accordingly, the Republic of Panama has advocated the achievement of general and complete disarmament in three stages:**
 - (a) **A halt to the arms race (. . .);**
 - (b) **The reduction, limitation and control of arms on the basis of approaches proposed by the great Powers or, failing this, on the basis of proposals by the Group of 77;**
 - (c) **General and complete disarmament.**

/...

8. In addition, in the sphere of regional disarmament, the Republic of Panama, as a party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and a signatory to the Ayacucho Declaration, co-operates in every way possible to put the ideas set out above into effect (...).

9. The Republic of Panama concurs in the views expressed by United Nations experts to the effect that the continuing arms race represents a crucial and growing challenge to mankind. (. ..) There is an increasingly urgent need to eliminate this danger. At the same time, the continuing arms race has had serious economic and social consequences for the peoples of all countries, but especially those of Latin America.

10. Taken together, these considerations highlight the extreme urgency of putting aside the use of force in international relations and adopting tangible disarmament measures under effective international control, as proposed by the Republic of Panama.

11. Panama has embarked upon a new democratic path with the aim of achieving conventional disarmament and strict control over the forces of law and order by abolishing the former Defence Forces in the national territory, thereby giving effect to the spirit of peaceful coexistence which is the primary purpose of the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace.

12. The Panamanian Government, faithful to the principle of the self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, has, as part of the ongoing restructuring process, submitted for the consideration of the Cabinet a preliminary draft of legislation to give effect to the Bethancourt doctrine, whereby recognition would be withheld from any Government which is the result of a military coup against a régime that has been lawfully chosen through popular elections and from any Government which is the result of electoral fraud.

13. Lastly, the Republic of Panama recognises that all developed States must direct their efforts towards helping to promote a decent standard of living for the well-being of all and to strengthen fundamental rights through enhanced benefit from the sale of their raw materials and access to technology with the aim of reducing economic dependency on third States.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[18 September 1990]

1. The profound changes which have taken place in Poland and in the rest of Europe in 1989 and 1990 have demonstrated (. ..) the validity of the provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. The changes in Poland have not threatened the security of other countries nor have they disturbed peace in the world. Peace has remained the superior asset, allowing the Polish people to exercise their right to full sovereignty and independence along with the inviolability of the other fundamental human rights. Poland is recovering as a

/...

democratic State of the rule of law, in which the respect of law and mutual tolerance are signs of gradual rehabilitation of a humanistic system of values in society.

2. Poland desires to re-establish its strong ties with Europe and with its well-established system of values, love of freedom and respect for human rights. Poland wishes to become a part of the European and universal system of human rights protection and to cherish the common values shared by democratic nations. (...)

3. Polish foreign policy is deeply committed to the maintenance of peace in Europe and around the world. The changes across Eastern Europe have shifted the emphasis to the building of a new system of security in Europe (...). Poland (...) has taken concrete initiatives and actions (. . .) including the proposal for the establishment of the Council for European Co-operation and support for the concept of forging a unified law area in Europe.

4. It is extremely important in forging a new relationship with a country's neighbours for the respective societies to become more familiar with one another to understand the differences in their historical development and to understand the essence and causes of those differences in order to give up established stereotypes and deeply rooted myths. This implies a number of tasks with regard to the whole process of preparation for life in peace, for intellectuals, artists, organisations and social movements all of which have a strong impact on the consciousness of society.

5. Remembrance of the past and building a peaceful future was the leitmotif of a large number of international and national meetings held in Poland on the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. (...) The preparation of societies for a peaceful future took a prominent place among those reflections.

6. One of such international conferences marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War was sponsored by the Peace Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Science under the motto of "The Preparation for Life in Peace as an Element of Stability, Security and Peace" (9-11 November 1989). (...)

7. Many of the social movements and political parties now being formed in Poland desire to promote fundamental human values, strengthen ties with other nations, foster positive social attitudes and promote tolerance (...).

8. It is respect for human rights which is currently becoming one of the foremost components of the preparation for life in peace, since - as Pope John Paul II has put it - peace, in the final analysis, boils down to the respect for the inalienable rights of the human being. The question of human rights is a running theme in Poland's public life, in scholarly publications and the press. (...)

9. A significant role in promoting the idea of preparation for life in peace is played by the Polish Peace Coalition representing several Polish peace movements. (...) The Coalition concentrates on propagating a dynamic vision of peace, increasing awareness about the sources, size and directions of threats to peace, promoting and gaining public support for measures aimed at reducing international tension and the building of confidence. (...)

10. Maintenance and strengthening of international peace as well as respect for the right to life in peace and for other human rights has been the leitmotive of actions taken by the government of the Republic of Poland. This will continue to be a high priority in the future.

11. The changes that have taken place in international relations since the adoption of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (...) have confirmed that the implementation of the right to life in peace calls for the fostering among individuals and nations the spirit of co-responsibility for the peaceful development of the world and the future of civilisation as well as the propagating in society of active and committed attitudes. (...)

12. The Government of the Republic of Poland wishes to express its conviction that Poland's postulates, submitted in its previous reply concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, continue to remain valid. (...)

13. The Government of the Republic of Poland continues to consider the objectives and tasks set forth in the Declaration to be a long-term programme which, in the new domestic and international situation, has become more profound in meaning and more realistic in its implementation.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[7 July 1990]

1. The Ukrainian SSR supports the principles and provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace and the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace. It considers that active dissemination of the ideas of peaceful co-development, co-operation and co-creation by all the peoples of the planet goes a long way towards promoting trust and establishing the foundations for lasting international security. The firm establishment in people's minds of the inalienable right to life in peace as a basic universal human value is among the most important elements of the new political thinking. The Declarations therefore help to create the psychological and moral basis for a non-violent, secure world,

2. The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the dissemination of the ideas of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually beneficial co-operation in an atmosphere of peace, mutual understanding and respect for the identity and diversity of all peoples. Article 67 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR states that "the internationalist duty of a citizen of the Ukrainian SSR shall be to further the development of friendship and co-operation with the peoples of other countries and the maintenance and strengthening of world peace". The diffusion and propagation of these principles is one of the most important goals of all of the Republic's educational and training systems.

3. Ukrainian public organisations play a large part in the inculcation of the idea of the right to life in peace, especially the Ukrainian Peace Committee. That Committee regularly holds competitions for the best poster on the themes of the struggle for peace and the promotion of friendship and mutual understanding on earth. (...) In addition, the Committee issues attractive booklets, leaflets and school calendars to mark important dates and highlight the peace-staking activities of the United Nations and other international organisations, as well as the corresponding activities undertaken in the Ukrainian SSR.

4. The peace marches and international peace cruises organised by the Ukrainian Committee for the Defence of Peace are widely known. (...) Coinciding with these marches and cruises, there were meetings with tens of thousands of Ukrainians, as well as many rallies, concerts and instructive activities.

5. The "Journalists for Peace" association, the "Journey to Peace" group and the Human Rights Association, which are affiliated with the Peace Committee, are playing an active role. For example, the "Journalists for Peace" association receives detailed information on a monthly basis concerning Ukrainian public activities on behalf of peace, which is then disseminated through the Republic's mass media. The "Journey to Peace" group holds public lectures and meetings popularising the ideas of peace and peaceful development. Recently, it has given emphasis to the theme of "Ecology and peace".

6. A great deal of attention is given in the Ukrainian SSR to the preparation of the younger generation for life in peace on the basis of peaceful coexistence and internationalism. With the help of the Peace Committee, international friendship clubs have been organised at Young Pioneer clubhouses and meeting places and at many schools. The friendship clubs encourage correspondence and personal contact between Ukrainian and foreign schoolchildren in the same age group. A "Peace lesson" is given annually on 1 September at schools, technical colleges and vocational schools. One practice that is fast becoming widespread is the organisation of study trips and field trips - lasting from a few days to a year - by Ukrainian pupils and students to foreign countries, and exchange visits by their counterparts to Ukrainian schools, higher educational institutions and Young Pioneer and youth camps. These and similar activities help to inculcate in Ukrainian youths the ideals of friendship, co-operation, mutual understanding and good neighbourliness.

7. The campaign for peace, the question of disarmament and the promotion of international security and trust between States are widely discussed in the Republic's information media, and given much attention by the Government, the state authorities, public figures and ordinary citizens,

8. The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the implementation of the principles of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace and the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, and is doing everything possible to promote them. In its opinion, it is of paramount importance that fresh concerted efforts should be made to strengthen peace and international security and to avert the threat of war. The Ukrainian SSR is prepared to co-operate actively with the United Nations to that end.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[3 July 1990]

1. The Soviet Union considers the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace to be an important document which has retained its value even now - 12 years after it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. (...)

2. What makes this document especially significant today is the fact that international relations are moving towards a period of peace when a new self-awareness is conclusively gaining ground among the general public on the basis of the priority assigned to universal human values, the fundamental unity of the world, and the community of the vital interests of all countries and peoples.

3. The realisation of the purposes and principles of the Declaration would be in keeping with the aspiration of peoples to live in harmony with one another, without artificial barriers or ideological conflict. (...) In recent times, as a result of the complementary efforts of States and peoples, the image of the enemy has gradually been disappearing, and there has been a fundamental change in the attitude towards war and military force as instruments of State policy. Accordingly, the objective pre-conditions for a new model of security and for consistent and reciprocal disarmament measures are taking shape. Of paramount importance in the movement towards a period of peace in the history of mankind are the revitalisation of the role of the United Nations and the activation of its peace-making functions.

4. One graphic example of the affirmation of positive trends in world affairs is the gradual change in Soviet-United States relations (...). The recent Soviet-United States summit meeting represented a major landmark in this process. It turned out to be an outstanding foreign policy exercise aimed at the consistent and irrevocable dismantling of the structures of post-war confrontation and at the establishment of international relations on new foundations.

5. At this time of rapid change in Europe, the Soviet Union is calling for the creation of a pan-European structure of security and co-operation in keeping with contemporary realities on the continent. The Soviet initiatives concerning Asia and the Pacific are sure to further the establishment of relations on the basis of trust and good neighbourliness.

6. The Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace is fully compatible with the principles of the new thinking fostered by the process of perestroika in the Soviet Union. (...) Perestroika has led to a sharp increase in the level of activism among Soviet citizens in social and political affairs, as well as in the search for ways and means of building a secure and qualitatively new future.

7. In 1989 the supreme organ of state power in our country - the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR - passed legislation to consolidate the basic principles of Soviet foreign policy. (...) In redesigning relations in the world

/...

community during this period of transition, the Soviet Union bases its approach on the need to observe the principles of equality, freedom of choice and balance of interests.

8. The Soviet State consistently carries out its policy of preparing the Soviet people for life in peace. The Constitution of the USSR prohibits war propaganda, Unilateral measures by the Soviet Union to reduce its armed forces and its military presence outside the territory of the USSR have helped to consolidate the ideals of peace and humanism in broad sectors of the society.

9. The democratization of Soviet society, the development of a State subject to the rule of law and the consolidation of political pluralism are tangibly promoting an increased role for citizens' groups in preparing the Soviet people for life in peace, with respect for the identity and diversity of all peoples.

10. At institutions of higher learning, secondary schools and youth organizations, young people in the Soviet Union are being prepared for life in peace and international friendship. The "Peace lesson" (...) has become an annual tradition observed on 1 September at all schools in the USSR.

11. In the Soviet Union, the mass media play a special role in preparing societies for life in peace. The media are called upon to help ensure the supremacy of universal human values, make societies more knowledgeable about one another, foster an atmosphere of trust and overcome reflex suspicion and hostility.

12. The numerous events which the Soviet people held to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of the victory over fascism underscored their deep commitment to the ideals of peace. The Soviet public are now preparing large-scale activities to mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the adoption of its Charter (...).

13. The Government and people of the Soviet Union intend to continue their vigorous support for the United Nations and for international citizens' groups and forums, with a view to implementing the provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

[Original : Arabic]

[11 July 1990]

1. The executive authority in the United Arab Emirates, of whatever orientation or kind, bases its functional policy on the provisions of the Provisional Constitution of the United Arab Emirates, which has governed all aspects of activity in the State since the latter's inception on 2 December 1971. In this, the Ministry of Education is like any other executive authority and centres its work on these policies,

/...

2. **In the context of the measures taken by it for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/73, (...) guidelines (are provided in articles 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, 40 of) the Provisional Constitution.**

3. **The main lines of educational policy stem from these just provisions, which determine the orientations of educational work and the personality traits to be imparted by education as detailed in a general system of educational goals (...).**

4. **There are several broad areas for action in the implementation of these educational goals. In the field of education, these are:**

(a) **Establishment and support of kindergartens as an expression of concern for young children and providing opportunities for balanced growth at a fundamental stage of the human personality so as to ensure the happiness of the children;**

(b) **Balancing quantity and quality in curricula so that the one does not outweigh the other, with a view to achieving a balanced personality with positive factors, initiative, a zest for life and a participatory attitude)**

(c) **Ensuring full access to education to all residents in the territory of the State, both citizens and non-citizens (...);**

(d) **Presentation of curricula dealing with racial discrimination and calling for its rejection, the combating of its destructive effects (...).**

5. **In the field of public activities, efforts include:**

(a) **Effective encouragement of school social and scientific clubs, theatrical presentations and interpretive drawings praising peace and repudiating wars and conflict;**

(b) **Participation in international festivals, youth meetings and regional and international women's activities;**

(c) **School information programmes and support for school media resources, in addition to educational programmes provided through the government mass media so as to provide an information climate that releases the creativity of individuals and makes them aware of regional and international issues;**

(d) **Encouragement of youth agreements, support for youth hostels and scout meetings and camps and youth exchanges for the promotion of contacts, co-operation and collective action;**

(e) **Adaptation of geographical and economic studies to a world view, as a call to economic complementarity and reciprocity of interests that would relieve the poor States and raise the standard of living of their citizens)**

(f) **Organisation of literary and debating competitions, and exchanges of letters among young students (...) as a means of greater contact among youth.**

6. **In the social and psychological field, efforts include:**

(a) Confirming religion as a life having its own rules and declaring freedom of religious observance, making religions bridges to love and co-operation;

(b) The establishment of psychological, social and health clinics in schools (...);

(c) The establishment of special educational classes to promote the teaching of slow learners and those who have learning problems.

7. In the area of continuing education, the following activities may be undertaken:

(a) Encouragement of literacy and adult education for those who have had no schooling and the creation of opportunities for them to acquire their rightful share of education (...);

(b) Support of contacts with the Arab Organisation for Literacy and Adult Education and its international extensions; participation in the World and Arab Days for the Eradication of Illiteracy;

(c) Promotion of school libraries and centralized educational resources to enable individuals to develop hobbies, increase their aptitudes and become acquainted with various cultures (...);

(d) Organisation of book exhibitions in schools and places of education, with a wide variety of titles so as to provide books, periodicals and reference works at moderate prices as an incentive to encourage individuals to seek more knowledge;

(e) Composition of books for adults and application of the principle of functional literacy to enable individuals to become active members of society.

III. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

5. In 1988 the Secretary-General dedicated the observance of the International Day of Peace to the theme "Children and Peace". The Peace Studies Unit of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, as part of its preparations for the observance of the Day, organised two seminars for representatives of non-governmental organizations on this subject. The first seminar took place at the United Nations Office at Vienna on 9 and 10 May 1988; the second seminar was held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 and 13 June 1988. Both seminars focused on projects and activities relating to children and peace and discussion of plans for the observance of the International Day of Peace.

6. The preamble of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) states that "universal and lasting peace can only be established if it is based on social justice". Social justice has been the primary aim of ILO activities in adopting international labour standards and safeguarding human rights as well as in its various forms of technical work. More specifically, ILO has made

particular efforts in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and **apartheid** and has **undertaken** research into the economic and social consequences of disarmament.

7. The United Nation Educational, Scientific and **Technical Organization** organised the International **Congress** on Peace in the Minds of Men in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) in 1989. The **Congress** focused on two primary themes: (a) peace among men and (b) peace in the context of the relations between humankind and a quality environment. The Congress adopted the Yamoussoukro **Declaration** which provides a positive definition of peace, identifies promising areas for peace and outlines a peace programme containing specific **recommendations** for implementation. Based on the results of the **Congress**, the general Conference, at its twenty-fifth session in October-November 1989, adopted two resolutions related to follow-up to the International Congress and the Establishment of the Felix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize.

IV. FUTURE ACTION

8. The Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace provides an important **guideline** for international and national activities. This process will **not** be **accomplished** through a single programme or initiative. As a consequence, a variety of projects and orientations **are** to **be** encouraged as contributions to this continuing process. Such efforts are important for the general promotion of a more secure and peaceful world.

9. **In** the opinion of the Secretary-General, further review of the process of preparing societies for life in peace should be conducted in the context of United Nations action for the promotion of peace.
