



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERALA/39/544  
9 October 1984  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCHThirty-ninth session  
Agenda item 65 (h)

## GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations  
and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms  
limitation and disarmamentNote by the Secretary-General

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	3
II. CONTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES .....	3
A. International Labour Organisation .....	3
B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations .....	3
C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ..	4
D. World Health Organization .....	7
E. International Telecommunication Union .....	9
III. CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM .....	9
A. United Nations Headquarters .....	9
Department of Political and Security Council Affairs .....	9
B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean .....	10

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development .....	10
D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization .....	11
E. United Nations Environment Programme .....	11
F. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations .....	15
G. Centre for Science and Technology for Development .....	15

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/188 J of 20 December 1983. In paragraph 1 of the resolution the Assembly invited the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to broaden further their contribution, within their areas of competence, to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution, information received on activities carried out by the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system is submitted herewith. Relevant information is also given in the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Campaign (A/39/492) and Disarmament Week (A/39/493).

## II. CONTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

### A. International Labour Organisation

3. In addition to the publications referred to in the Secretary-General's report on Disarmament Week, the ILO Programme and Budget for 1984-1985 has allocated resources for carrying out two studies. The subjects of these studies and a questionnaire circulated by ILO in this connection are described in the report of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Campaign (A/39/492).

4. ILO also plans to publish in its International Labour Review four articles in 1984: "Employment effects of disarmament on research and development personnel" by Klaus Engelhardt, German Democratic Republic; "Employment effects of disarmament in the United States" by Emma Rothschild, United States of America; "Trade unions and disarmament" by Reijo Lindroos, Finland; and "The employment effects of disarmament in the USSR" by Alexander Efremov, USSR." Earlier publications of the International Labour Review are described in the Secretary-General's report on Disarmament Week.

### B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

5. While the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has no specific mandate in the area of disarmament, the organization is increasingly concerned by the dire effects brought about by the prevailing arms race. Its concern is all the greater as it results in an ever increasing diversion of financial resources to military rather than to social development, while at the same time the desperate needs of individual human beings lacking the minimum food requirements continue to remain unmet. Thus, besides bringing relief to the victims of wars and disturbances in the fulfilment of its mandate in the food and agriculture sector, FAO continued to contribute to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament called for by General Assembly resolution 38/188 J.

6. In this connection, FAO reports that in the message issued on the occasion of Disarmament week, starting 24 October 1983, the organization appealed once again to the leaders of nations finally to acknowledge and recognize the rights of people to life and to food, thereby putting into practice the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Constitution of FAO.

7. Other activities of FAO are reported in the report of the Secretary-General on Disarmament Week (A/39/493).

8. In addition, FAO contributed, as it had done in the past, to the 1983 edition of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook series, and was represented at the meeting of the focal points within the United Nations system called by the Department of Disarmament Affairs, which was held in New York on 10 and 11 April 1984.

9. The organization will continue to report to its governing bodies on such major disarmament issues as the preparations for and the results of the special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

#### C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

10. Relevant account of UNESCO's recent activities in the field of disarmament and an outline of activities planned within the framework of the approved programme and budget for 1984-1985 is also contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Campaign (A/39/492) and Disarmament Week (A/39/493).

#### UNESCO activities in the field of disarmament

11. It should be recalled first of all that, generally speaking, the activities of UNESCO in the field of disarmament are founded in its Constitution, which assigned to the organization the task of constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men and "of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established and which its Charter proclaims".

12. UNESCO also draws its authority in this field from requests addressed to it by the United Nations General Assembly, concerning which the General Conference and the Executive Board have adopted resolutions and decisions respectively.

13. At its twenty-second session, the General Conference adopted resolution 20 entitled "Role of UNESCO in generating a climate of public opinion conducive to the halting of the arms race and the transition to disarmament". In this resolution the General Conference recalled "resolutions 34/83 I and 37/78 D adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-fourth and thirty-seventh sessions, in which it invited relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system to intensify activities, within their areas of competence, to disseminate information on the consequences of the arms race", and the General Conference invited the Director-General, inter alia, "(a) to take the necessary steps to give effect to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly which concern disarmament and fall within UNESCO's spheres of competence".

14. At its one hundred and fifteenth session, the Executive Board adopted decision 115 EX/7.1.1, in which it reaffirmed "its conviction that UNESCO has an important role to play within the United Nations system in the promotion of disarmament through research, education, information, communication and culture". In the same decision, the Executive Board invited the Director-General "to ensure that UNESCO, in the context of the implementation in 1983 of the programme and budget for the current triennium (21 C/5) and of whatever programme may be adopted in the medium-term plan (1984-1989), will continue activities in the field of disarmament education and make, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, a specific contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign, bearing in mind, inter alia, the reference in the Director-General's address to the twelfth special session to the special threat of a nuclear conflagration and the dangers of chemical and biological weapons".

15. The activities of UNESCO undertaken in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions have been concerned with research, publications and training.

#### Research and publications

16. A work has been published on obstacles to disarmament and ways of overcoming them. This study deals mainly with the technical revolution and its influence on disarmament prospects. It also highlights the theme suggested in paragraph 4 (a) (i) of General Conference resolution 20 C/11.1, "the relationship between socio-economic development and the solution of problems connected with efforts to halt and reverse the arms race, and the promotion of the transition to disarmament".

17. Other research projects and publications are described in the Secretary-General's report on Disarmament Week (A/39/493).

#### Meetings and training

18. As part of its contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign launched by the United Nations General Assembly on 7 June 1982, UNESCO organized an international symposium on the news media and disarmament at Nairobi, from 18 to 22 April 1983. This symposium was attended by 12 research scholars and journalists, who took part in a personal capacity.

19. The Intergovernmental Conference on Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education Relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with a View to Developing a Climate of Opinion Favourable to the Strengthening of Security and Disarmament, held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 12 to 20 April 1983, adopted a series of recommendations with a view to achieving the objectives of the 1974 Recommendations on Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms adopted at the eighteenth session of the General Conference, thus reflecting a new awareness of the role of education in this field.

20. The Intergovernmental Conference recommended, inter alia, that the Director-General "organize an international consultation of specialists in the social and educational sciences, information and communication, to examine ways of

improving, at the level of higher education, educational action and research making it possible to provide students with the necessary knowledge of the problems of peace, human rights and the rights of peoples and the means of safeguarding them; examine in greater depth, in studies undertaken in the field of education for peace and disarmament, with the assistance of competent scientific institutions, the relationship between human rights and the rights of peoples, on the one hand, and international peace, on the other, as well as the relationship between disarmament and development;" (recommendation No. 1), and "support the efforts of Member States to disseminate in their national languages international instruments useful for international education, in particular experience relating to the problems of international understanding, co-operation and peace and of disarmament with a view to finding more effective solutions to the problems of development" (recommendation No. 2).

21. By its recommendation No. 15 on the contribution of the mass media in education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms with a view to developing a climate of opinion favourable to the strengthening of security and disarmament, the Intergovernmental Conference recommended that member States:

"facilitate the opportunities of the mass media to contribute to education for international understanding, co-operation and peace, to counter propaganda on behalf of recourse to war for purposes of expansion, aggression and domination, and to combat racialism, apartheid and hatred among nations by promoting knowledgeable public opinion"; and "to facilitate a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information in order to ensure the maximum contribution of the mass media in helping to inform public opinion and creating a climate favourable to the implementation of the principles of the 1974 Recommendation ...".

22. Other meetings and seminars organized by UNESCO are described in the Secretary-General's report on Disarmament Week (A/39/493).

UNESCO activities concerning the approved programme and budget for 1984-1985

23. In addition to the information contained is the Secretary-General's report on the world Disarmament Campaign, UNESCO provides the following information on its planned activities:

(a) Multidisciplinary studies on the most important factors in the arms race and the consequences of the arms race for regional and international conflicts;

(b) Research on the theoretical and practical aspects of the concept of security by disarmament;

(c) Study on the consequences of the arms race in UNESCO's fields of competence;

(d) Research on the links between peace, disarmament and development;

(e) Implementation of the 1974 Recommendation and follow-up to the 1983 Intergovernmental Conference;

(f) Preparation of a methodological guide to disarmament education in pursuance of decision 105 E/Decision 7.1.2;

(g) Preparation of a publication concerning teaching of contemporary world problems on the theme of education for peace, disarmament and human rights, designed for teachers;

(h) Activities to promote the extension of education for peace, disarmament and respect for human rights and the rights of peoples to higher education;

(i) Encouragement of co-operation among educational and other social institutions, such as the mass media, conducive to education for peace and disarmament;

(j) Encouragement of young people to think and act in support of peace, disarmament and international security.

#### D. World Health Organization

24. In addition to the information given in the Secretary-General's reports on the World Disarmament Campaign and Disarmament Week WHO draws further attention to the report on "Effects of nuclear war on health and health services", which the General Assembly commends in resolution 38/188 J.

25. As a follow-up of resolution WHA 36.28 (see para. 27) the Director-General established, in October 1983, a WHO Management Group. In addition to the present and planned work of the Group referred to in the Secretary-General's report on the World Disarmament Campaign, WHO plans to have regular dissemination of information on reports and articles prepared by the Management Group for widest possible publication, for information on the consequences of nuclear war on health and health services to the general public.

26. Thus, through the wide publicity already given to the findings in the report on "Effects of nuclear war on health and health services", and the further information that will result from the work of the Management Group, WHO is, within its constitutional mandate and responsibilities, actively contributing to a better understanding of the horrors of a nuclear war, and thereby, to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament.

27. The Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly, at its 13th plenary meeting, on 16 May 1983, adopted the following resolution (WHA36.28) the role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace as the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all:

"The Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the principle laid down in the WHO Constitution that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

"Recalling resolution WHA34.38 on the role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace as the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all;

"Having considered the report on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services, prepared by the International Committee of Experts in Medical Sciences and Public Health established by the Director-General in conformity with resolution WHA34.38;

"1. THANKS the International Committee for its report;

"2. NOTES with grave concern the conclusions of the Committee on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services;

"3. ENDORSES the Committee's conclusion that it is impossible to prepare health services to deal in any systematic way with a catastrophe resulting from nuclear warfare, and that nuclear weapons constitute the greatest immediate threat to the health and welfare of mankind;

"4. URGES Member States to give careful consideration to the conclusions of the report;

"5. REQUESTS the Director-General:

"(1) to publish the report with all its scientific attachments and to preface it with this resolution;

"(2) to ensure that wide publicity is given to the report;

"(3) to transmit the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to its consideration by the appropriate United Nations and other bodies;

"6. RECOMMENDS that the Organization, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, continue the work of collecting, analysing and regularly publishing accounts of activities and further studies on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services, the Health Assembly being kept periodically informed."



E. International Telecommunication Union

28. United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/188 J was brought to the attention of the Administrative Council of the Union at its thirty-ninth session held at Geneva last April. For want of adequate time, the Council decided to defer consideration of the resolution to its fortieth session, to be held in July of next year.

III. CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES WITHIN  
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. United Nations Headquarters

Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

29. The Department of Political and Security Council Affairs (PSCA), in compliance with resolution 38/188 J, has co-operated concretely in various ways, particularly in co-ordinating activities within the framework of the Programme for the International Year of Peace with those within the World Disarmament Campaign as, for example, seminars and meetings of non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, etc.

30. Through its representatives, PSCA takes part in the activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in accordance with the recommendations made by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ), on matters in the area of disarmament and development.

31. In the First Committee (political and disarmament problems), PSCA follows closely the deliberations on disarmament items, particularly those related to international security and disarmament and, whenever necessary, makes use of the facts or comments in this area in preparing specific political analysis. The Department contributes to the dissemination of information on the consequences of the arms race and disarmament.

Outer space

32. Under paragraph 16 of resolution 38/80 of 15 December 1983, the General Assembly placed the subject of "arms limitation and disarmament in outer space" on the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during its 1984 session. The Outer Space Affairs Division will be in a position to report on the result of the consideration of this item at a later date.

Apartheid

33. For implementation of General Assembly resolutions on apartheid, the Special Committee against Apartheid has continued in 1983 to promote public campaigns in order to put an end to military and nuclear collaboration with apartheid South Africa. The current programme of work of the Special Committee includes the preparation of reports, inter alia, on nuclear and military collaboration between

certain Governments and South Africa, which in some ways relate to disarmament. The Special Committee has also commissioned recently a study on South Africa's uranium trade.

34. The Special Committee participated in a hearing on South African militarization and aggression against neighbouring States which was held at Oslo from 22 to 24 March 1984.

35. Finally, the Committee is now considering holding a seminar on the implementation of a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

#### Security Council

36. Furthermore, PSCA would like to draw attention to the following resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on matters related to disarmament for the attention of the Security Council:

- (a) Resolution 38/9 on armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security;
- (b) Resolution 38/73 on the review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly;
- (c) Resolution 38/181 on implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa;
- (d) Resolution 38/182 on prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

#### B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

37. ECLAC supports the work which is being done by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the vitally important field of disarmament, and has attempted to bring it to public attention through its information service. ECLAC is devoted primarily to promoting the economic and social development of Latin America and therefore does not engage in activities bearing directly on disarmament. ECLAC will bear in mind the provisions of resolution 38/188 J and will provide information regarding its activities as appropriate.

#### C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

38. UNCTAD welcomes the decision by the General Assembly contained in resolution 38/188 J and looks forward to making an appropriate contribution within its field of competence to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament, especially in the field of trade and economic aspects of disarmament with which UNCTAD has been dealing for a number of years. Specifically, UNCTAD proposes the following:

(a) Consideration by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-ninth session (10-21 September 1984) of the inclusion of a special item on the "Trade and Economic Aspects of Disarmament" in the agenda of a subsequent Board session;

(b) Preparation of studies for the special item, if approved by the Board, and of articles on trade and economic aspects of disarmament for inclusion in UNCTAD publications, including a subsequent issue of the Trade and Development Report, UNCTAD Review and other appropriate documents.

39. UNCTAD is carrying out its work on trade and economic aspects of disarmament pursuant to UNCTAD resolution 44 (III), in which it decided that the Trade and Development Board should keep the matter under continuous review. In 1982, the UNCTAD secretariat prepared a study on "Armament expenditures and disarmament: general consequences for development", which was published in the Trade and Development Report, 1982.

40. Considerable attention was paid to trade and development aspects of disarmament during the sixth session of UNCTAD, held at Belgrade from 6 June to 3 July 1983.

41. The Trade and Development Board, at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, discussed the possibility of including a special item on the trade and economic aspects of disarmament in the provisional agenda for subsequent sessions. No agreement was reached and the Board, at its twenty-eighth session, decided to defer consideration of the matter until the twenty-ninth session.

42. UNCTAD continues to participate in a number of conferences, seminars and meetings of working groups devoted to trade and economic aspects of disarmament.

#### D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

43. The activities of UNIDO are somewhat removed from specific programmes connected with disarmament but it tries to ensure that any industrial programmes supported by it do not contribute to the manufacture of weapons. However, in pursuance of the subject resolution, UNIDO is ready to broaden its contributions in its field of competence as savings from disarmament measures should be allocated to development needs.

#### E. United Nations Environment Programme

44. UNEP activities are very much in line with the intentions of the resolution which emphasizes the links between disarmament and development and the importance of international co-operation in various fields, among them environment, for the achievement of arms limitation and disarmament. In the past UNEP responded to specific requests and regular activities in this field have been initiated since 1983. Its Governing Council gave UNEP a specific mandate and authorized budgetary allocation since approval of the system-wide medium-term environment programme that is from the biennium 1984-1985.

45. The Declaration on the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in June 1972, and endorsed by the General Assembly, states in principle 26 that:

"Man and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons."

46. A brief review of the activities of UNEP and the relevant resolutions constituting the basis of these activities are given below.

(a) Effects of weapons on ecosystems

47. The United Nations Conference on Desertification, held in 1977, adopted resolution 4 concerning the effect of weapons of mass destruction on ecosystems. The resolution was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/172. In implementation of the resolution, UNEP and the former United Nations Centre for Disarmament prepared a study on the "Effects of weapons on ecosystems". 1/ On the basis of this study, the Secretary-General presented a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session (A/33/259, annex II).

(b) Remnants of war

48. The problem of the material remnants of war has been the subject of several decisions of the UNEP Governing Council and the General Assembly since 1975.

49. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 31/111 of 16 December 1976, the Executive Director of UNEP submitted a report (A/32/137, annex), on the problem of the material remnants of wars and their effect on the environment. The General Assembly, in its resolution 32/168, having taken note of the report, inter alia, invited concerned Governments to co-operate in the matter with the Executive Director of UNEP.

50. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/188 of 17 December 1981, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/37/415) on the replies received from Member States on ways and means of solving the problems of material remnants of war including the possibility of convening a conference under the auspices of the United Nations. By resolution 37/215 of 20 December 1982, the General Assembly took note of the report and requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNEP, to prepare a factual study on the problem of remnants of war, particularly mines. In compliance with that resolution, UNEP submitted a report which was annexed to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/383).

51. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/162 of 19 December 1983, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of UNEP, to continue to seek the views of States on the recommendations contained in section VIII of the study annexed to his report.

(c) Pernicious effects of the arms race on nature

52. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/8 of 30 October 1980 on the historical responsibility of States for the preservation of nature for present and future generations, in which it requested the Secretary-General, with the co-operation of UNEP, to prepare a report on the pernicious effects of the arms race on nature and to seek the views of States on possible measures to be taken at the international level for the preservation of nature. At the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly a progress report was submitted by the Secretary-General (A/36/532 and Corr.1). The Assembly adopted resolution 36/7 of 27 October 1981, by which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to complete the preparation of a report containing recommendations for the adoption by States of specific obligations and measures relating to the protection of nature from the pernicious effects of the arms race, and to the limitation and prohibition of the types of military activity which present the greatest danger for nature. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit that report to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament. A summary of the study on the pernicious effects of the arms race on nature (A/S-12/9) was submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament.

(d) The state of the world environment

53. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its seventh session in May 1979, included the topic "Environmental effects of military activity" in the 1980 State of the Environment Report. In pursuance of this request the publication "The State of the world Environment: selected topics" included chapter V on "The environmental effects of military activity".

54. The UNEP report on "The World Environment 1972-1982", prepared with the main objective of assessing the state of the world environment decade after the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, includes a chapter 16 on Peace and Security. 2/

(e) Hostile use of environmental modification

55. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its fifth session in May 1977, took note of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques annexed to General Assembly resolution 31/72 of 10 December 1976 and requested member States to facilitate exchanges of information on the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes (UNEP/GC.102 (V)).

56. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its eighth session, adopted decision 8/7, section (a) of which is entitled "Provision for co-operation between States in weather modification". In paragraph 1 of that decision, the Governing Council decided, inter alia, that weather modification should be dedicated to the benefit of mankind and the environment.

57. The issue of environmental modification techniques is included in the joint UNEP/Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) programme of studies on military activities and the human environment (see para. 62). A symposium on the legal, technical and policy appraisal of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques was held in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in April 1984.

(f) Military activity and the environment in the context of the system-wide medium-term environment programme

58. In its decision 9/10 (B), the UNEP Governing Council approved, on a provisional basis, the structure and objectives of the system-wide medium-term environment programme. At the same session the Council, by decision 9/4, requested the Executive Director to include in his presentation of the system-wide medium-term environment programme an analysis of the impact of the arms race on nature.

59. Also at its ninth session, the Governing Council of UNEP approved decision 9/8 on global armaments spending, which calls upon Governments to stop the arms race and, until disarmament is achieved, to allocate at least 0.001 per cent of armaments spending for development projects and the protection of the environment.

60. The Governing Council of UNEP, meeting in a Session of Special Character in May 1982, adopted resolution 1 which outlines the main environmental trends, problems and priorities to be addressed. It also approved resolution III on arms and the environment, in which it appealed to Governments and the world community as a whole to do the utmost to halt the arms race and thereby prevent a major threat to the environment. It then requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring the appeal to the attention of the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament.

61. The structure of the system-wide medium-term environment programme was approved by Council decision 10/13 of 31 May 1982, including chapter XV on the arms race and the environment (UNEP/GC.10/7 and Corr.1 and UNEP/GC.11/7), which outlines, *inter alia*, the following activities to be implemented by UNEP in co-operation with other agencies: preparation of state-of-the-art reports on possible effects of military activity on the environment, examination of the issues of ecologically important areas in relation to potential damage of military activity, analysis of existing treaties in relation to environmental effects of military activities, study of the use of natural resources for military activities, studies on the interrelationship between military activities and the environment.

62. Some of the above-mentioned activities are part of a joint programme of studies on military activities and the human environment conducted by UNEP with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). These include the following subjects: herbicides in war; explosive remnants of war; environmental impact of chemical weapons and warfare; environmental warfare; a technical, legal and policy appraisal; oil as a source of international conflict; military activity and the human environment: an annotated bibliography; military activities and the human environment: public information; activities being considered or in process of being initiated.

(g) Ozone research and monitoring

63. UNEP organized a meeting of experts designated by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at Washington, D.C., in March 1977, which agreed on a World Plan of Action on the Ozone Layer. In conformity with the Plan of Action, a Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer was established, composed of representatives of the international agencies and non-governmental organizations participating in the implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as representatives of countries with major scientific programmes contributing to it. The Committee has met six times to review progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, identify deficiencies and make recommendations for future work.

64. UNEP is supporting a Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project meant to provide advice to member States, to the United Nations and other appropriate international organizations concerning various aspects of atmospheric ozone.

65. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its ninth session in May 1981, adopted decision 9/13, section B of which is entitled "Protection of the Ozone Layer". In paragraphs 1 and 2 of that decision, the Governing Council decided, inter alia, to initiate work on a global framework convention for the protection of the ozone layer. It further decided to establish an ad hoc working group of legal and technical experts which should report, through the Executive Director of UNEP, to the Governing Council on the progress of its work.

66. Three sessions of the Working Group have been held in 1983 and 1984 for the purpose of developing a draft framework convention for the protection of the ozone layer.

(h) Sources or radiation from nuclear explosions

67. The report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) 3/ includes special chapters on the effects of nuclear explosions. The same report examines the genetic effects of radiation in the children of atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

F. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

68. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations is in the process of completing a study entitled "The role of transnational corporations in the production and transfer of arms and military technology", which it expects to issue as a technical paper by the end of 1984 or early 1985.

G. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

69. This Centre is a rather compact unit whose primary function is to provide substantive servicing to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and assisting the Director-General, at the secretariat level, in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

70. The Centre would like to discuss any possibilities of effectively co-operating with the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the field of disarmament within the Centre's and the Intergovernmental Committee's mandate.

Notes

1/ UNEP Studies, vol. 1. "The effects of weapons on ecosystems", by J. P. Robinson of the Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, Brighton, England. (Published for the United Nations Environment Programme by Pergamon Press.)

2/ The World Environment 1972-1982. A report by the United Nations Environment Programme. Edited by M. W. Holdgazte, M. Kassas and G. F. White and co-ordinated by E. El-Hinnawi, Tycooly International Dublin 1982.

3/ IONIZING RADIATION: Sources and Biological Effects. UNSCEAR report to the General Assembly 1982 (Annex E: Exposures resulting from nuclear explosions; Annex I: Genetic Effects of Radiation).

-----