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Agenda item 61 (g)REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF  
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE **GENERAL** ASSEMBLYUnited Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament  
in AfricaReport of the Secretary-General

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its fortieth session, **adopted resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985**, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa". The text of that resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 39/63 J of 12 December 1984 in which it requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to such Member States in the regions concerned as may request it with a view to establishing regional and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, on **the** basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States may make to that end,

"Bearing in mind resolution AHG/Res.138 (XXI) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government **of the** Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, **held at** Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, in which the African leaders requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary measures to establish a regional office in Africa to promote **the** objectives of peace, disarmament and development in the region,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 37/100 F of 13 December 1982, 38/73 J of 15 December 1983 and 39/63 F of 12 December 1984 on regional disarmament,

"Taking into account the Lomé Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Ministerial Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa, held at Lomé from 13 to 16 August 1985 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity,

"Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'United Nations regional centre for peace and disarmament in Africa',

"1. Decides to establish as at 1 January 1986, within the framework of the Secretariat, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States may make to that end;

"2. Decides further that the Centre shall provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation, and disarmament in the region, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign]

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to ensure the establishment and functioning of the Centre;

"4. Invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Centre)

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 40/151 G.

## II. ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRE

3. As decided by the General Assembly in resolution 40/151 G, the Centre was established as at 1 January 1986. The Secretary-General, following appropriate consultations, proceeded to locate the Centre at Lomé, Togo. It will be recalled in this connection that, in the report submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, the Secretary-General pointed out that the Ministerial Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa, convened by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at Lomé from 13 to 16 August 1985, had welcomed "... with appreciation the offer of the Government of Togo to host the proposed centre for peace and disarmament and provide to the United Nations, at no cost, office space for the centre" (A/40/443/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 4).

4. In accordance with the offer it had made at that ORU Ministerial Conference, the Government of Togo provided at no cost to the United Nations office space for the Centre and other installations aimed at facilitating the establishment and functioning of the Centre. The Centre has since become operational and is scheduled to be officially inaugurated in October 1986.

5. On 11 February 1986, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. **Sammy Kum Buo**, a Political Affairs Officer in the Department for Disarmament Affairs, as Director of the Centre.

6. **Structure:** Taking into account, inter alia, the mandate and objectives established for the Centre by the General Assembly in resolution 40/151 G, the Secretary-General establishes the Centre, in the initial phase, under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Department acts as a focal point for co-ordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

7. Objectives and activities of the Centre The General Assembly, in its resolution 40/151 G, decided that "the Centre shall provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign". At its twenty-second ordinary session held at Addis Ababa from 28 to 30 July 1986, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU adopted resolution AHG/Res.154 (XXII) (see A/41/654, annex II) by which it, inter alia, reaffirmed the firm conviction expressed in its resolution AHG/Res. 138 (YXI), of the interrelationship between security, disarmament and development and of the need for the United Nations to establish a regional centre in Africa to carry out studies and to promote the objectives of peace, disarmament and development. Furthermore, the Assembly, by the same resolution, welcomed the establishment, by the United Nations, of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and recommended that it work closely with OAU, and in particular with its Defence Commission and its Liberation Committee.

8. The year 1986 has so far been devoted largely to efforts to ensure the establishment and functioning of the Centre. As the Centre has since become operational, and taking into account the views and suggestions of Member States of the region, as well as the recommendations of OAU, the Centre is expected to begin its activities later in the year, mainly within the framework of programmes and activities under the World Disarmament Campaign. In addition, the OAU Council of Ministers has, in its resolution CM/Res.1042 (XLIV), adopted at its forty-fourth ordinary session held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 26 July 1986 (see A/41/654, annex I), requested the Centre, together with other relevant agencies and organs of the United Nations system, to co-operate with the OAU secretariat in the convening of a seminar of African scientists, researchers and institutions on Africa's role in the use of nuclear science for peace and development.

9. Staffing and finance: By its resolution 40/151 G, the General Assembly decided to establish the Centre on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States may make to that end. In the report on the Centre submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly's fortieth session, the Secretary-General had stated the following concerning staffing and finance:

"... it is the intention of the Secretary-General **to make** the maximum use of **existing** resources. However, these resources are limited and programmed **among** activities mandated by appropriate **legislative action**. It will therefore also be necessary to seek voluntary contributions from Member States and **interested organizations** in order to meet staff requirements and **the basic** operating and administrative **costs** of the centre. A special effort will **be** made to **raise** voluntary contributions" (A/40/443/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 8).

10. The commitment by the Secretary-General to make **the maximum use** of existing resources was made before the financial **situation** of the United Nations worsened. **As** the financial crisis developed, it became apparent that it would **be** impossible, especially in view of the emergency measures approved by **the General Assembly** during its resumed fortieth session, in April 1986, on the **Organization's** financial crisis, to **realize** any savings from **the** regular budget that **could be** allocated for the financing of the Centre. On an exceptional basis, available extrabudgetary **resources** in the amount of \$140,000 were provided to **the** Centre **as a one-time** allocation to enable the Centre to **commence** its operations, **taking into account the** relevant provisions of General **Assembly** resolution 40/151 G. Furthermore, through, **the** redeployment of already **limited** Secretariat **staff resources**, **the** Secretary-General **appointed** a staff member to **serve** as Director of the Centre and provided the necessary administrative support.

11. **The** Secretary-General wishes to **emphasize** that, in accordance with the terms of resolution 40/151 G by which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, neither the regular **budget** of the Organization nor existing extrabudgetary resources can provide additional funding for the Centre. It is therefore necessary, in order to **ensure** the Centre's viability, to establish a stable **base** for **its financing**. Consequently, voluntary **contributions** from Member States and interested **organizations** and individuals will **be** needed **in** order to **meet** staff requirements and the basic operating and administrative costs of the Centre. A special effort is being **made to raise** voluntary contributions and to **this** end the Secretary-General **has** established within the Secretariat a **trust fund** to receive such contributions as **may be** made to the Centre. **It is to be recalled that the** General Assembly, in its resolution 40/151 G, invited Member States to **make** voluntary contributions to the Centre. Furthermore, the twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, in its resolution AHG/Res. 1.54 (XXII), also appealed to Member States and the international community as a **whole** to make voluntary contributions to the Centre. Three Member States (Cameroon, **Senegal** and Togo) have so far pledged contributions to the Centre. In **addition**, the Rockefeller Foundation, a non-governmental organization, has also made a contribution to the Centre.

12. Efforts are **also being** made to determine the possible contribution of other **organs**, agencies and **programmes** of the United Nations system towards assisting **the** Centre. To this end, a co-operation arrangement involving the United Nations Information Centre at Lomé **has** been reached between the Department of Public Information and the Department for Disarmament Affairs with a view to assisting the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, especially in **the** area of the Centre's information **activities**.