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## GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

### Relationship between disarmament and development

### Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/44/150.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In pursuance of **General Assembly resolutions 39/160** of 17 December 1984 and **40/155** of 16 December 1985, **the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development was held** in New York from **24 August to 11 September 1987**. **Beginning with the establishment of a Preparatory Committee in July 1985, it was preceded by over two years of preparations.** **1/** In April 1986, a Panel of Eminent Personalities in the Field of **Disarmament and Development** was convened in New York **as part of those preparations.** **2/** The Conference was attended by 150 States, which **adopted by consensus a final document that includes an action programme.** **3/** The final document was submitted by the Conference in its **report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.** **4/**

2. In its resolution **42/45** of 30 November 1987, the **General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and requested the Secretary-General to take action through the appropriate organs, within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference.** In its resolution **43/75 B**, of 7 December 1988, the General Assembly requested the **Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of that action programme**

**1. ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

3. In the action programme **contained in paragraph 35 of the Final Document,** **3/** the States participating in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and **Development** reaffirmed their commitments in the fields of disarmament and development and reiterated **their determination to adopt, both individually and collectively, appropriate measures to implement those commitments, including bilateral, regional and global initiatives for peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes.** They agreed to **consider keeping under review issues related to a conversion of military industry to civilian production and undertaking studies to identify and publicise the benefits that could be derived from the reallocation of military resources.**

4. The States participating in the Conference also agreed to continue to **assess** their political and security requirements and the **level** of their military spending **and to keep the public informed on the subject; to assess the nature and volume of resources that might be released through arms limitation and disarmament; and to regularly carry out analyses of the economic and social consequences of their military spending.** They recognised that an informed public, including **non-governmental organisations, had an invaluable role to play in helping to promote the objectives of disarmament and development and creating an awareness of the relationship between disarmament, development and security.** They emphasised the need to **strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and development,**

5. The States went on to request the **Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to foster and co-ordinate the incorporation of a disarmament-development**

**perspective in the activities of the United Nations system. In particular, they called upon the United Nations to;**

**(a) Promote collective knowledge of the non-military threats to international security;**

**(b) Establish an improved comprehensive data base on global and national military expenditure;**

**(a) Analyse the impact of global military expenditures on the world economy and the international economic system; and monitor trends in military spending;**

**(d) Facilitate the exchange of experience in the field of conversion from military to civilian production.**

### III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**6. In pursuance of paragraph 35 (ix) b of the Final Document of the Conference, the Secretary-General established in December 1987 a high-level intra-secretariat task force having the following composition: Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Chairman; Under-Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General, Office for Research and the Collection of Information) and Under-Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Convener.**

**7. The task force meets at the level of head of the department as and when necessary. Regular meetings are held at the working level for the officers assigned by each Department,**

**8. The purpose of the task force is to: (a) determine short, medium and long-range priorities from a broadly defined mandate as contained in paragraph 35 (ix) b of document A/CONF.130/39; (b) specify assignments for relevant parts of the Secretariat; and (c) establish mechanisms for their co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs,**

**9. In determining priorities, two major considerations were borne in mind: (a) General Assembly resolution 42/45 calls for implementation of the action programme within available resources; and (b) the action programme provides broad guidelines within which specific activities are to be identified. Accordingly, it was decided that the programmes and activities to be undertaken in pursuance of the resolution should be developed in the course of implementation.**

**10. In May 1988 the task force identified the following areas for specific activities to be carried out concurrently and sequentially during the period from 1988 to 1990.**

**(a) Monitoring trends in military spending;**

**(b) Facilitating exchange of experience in conversion from military to civilian production;**

(a) Promoting collective knowledge of non-military threats to international security.

#### IV. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

11. In the field of monitoring trends in military spending, the following specific assignments have been undertaken:

(a) To establish an improved comprehensive data base on global and national military expenditures, the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has undertaken a pilot study of bench-mark year data, to be updated on a periodical basis. The pilot study has involved:

(i) Preparation of a theoretical framework of indicators to trace global and national military expenditures;

(ii) Identification of categories in United Nations statistics on industrial production, trade and national accounts that could be of relevance to military related expenditures,

Further expert guidance from military specialists and defence economists will be required to establish the bench-mark year data base and extrapolate global and national trends. If the work undertaken by the Statistical Office in this field is to be carried out beyond the fourth quarter of 1989, extrabudgetary resources will be needed.

(b) To monitor trends in military spending, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has undertaken to establish and maintain a reference system of both United Nations and external sources of information, as a first step that should include:

(i) A list of countries about whose military spending information is available from internal and external sources;

(ii) An index of sources providing such information)

(iii) An index of categories under which such information is available.

Using extrabudgetary funds the Department for Disarmament Affairs has prepared a reference guide on the above areas, which is available in the Department for Disarmament Affairs Library.

(a) The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, has undertaken to compile a bibliography of recent publications on national and global military spending.

(d) The Department for Disarmament Affairs is also exploring ways and means of collection, compilation, retrieval, referral and storage of data available from United Nations and non-United Nations sources of information, including arrangements for networking with other data bases within the United Nations system and outside.

12. To facilitate the exchange of **experience in the field of conversion from military to civilian production**, the **task force identified three areas for attention: labour, trade and industry**. An international **symposium on the impact of arms limitation on employment** will be held in the **summer of 1990**. The **symposium will be organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations, Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Monetary Fund**. The Soviet Peace Fund has offered hospitality and financial support to **hold the symposium in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**.

13. To promote collective knowledge of **non-military threats to international security**, the **task force determined that the information available within the United Nations system should be compiled by the Department for Disarmament Affairs as a first step**. Subsequently, **Office for Research and Collection of Information**, in co-operation with **Department for International Economic and Social Affairs**, prepared a background paper on the **subject tracing the evolution of the emerging global concern with non-military threats to international security and identifying the specific issues raised**. The paper is available from the library of the **Department for Disarmament Affairs**,

#### **Specialized agencies**

14. The **task force drew the attention of the specialised agencies to paragraph 35 (ix) of the Final Document**. They will be kept informed and invited to participate in **specific activities relevant to their respective areas of co-operation**.

#### **Outside contacts**

15. The **Department for Disarmament Affairs has intensified its contacts with the academic community and with non-governmental organisations, following up the requests addressed to the Secretary-General in paragraph 35 (ix) of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development**,

16. In April 1986, the **Friedrich Ebert Foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, organised a two-day conference entitled "Disarmament and development: conditions for peace and security of the third world" at the United Nations Headquarters**. Over 300 participants from more than 55 countries participated. A **summary of the conference proceedings is available from the New York office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation**.

17. In November 1989, the **Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs will be organising a workshop on non-military dimensions of global security at New Delhi, India, in which the Department for Disarmament Affairs has been invited to participate**.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 51 (A/40/51) and *ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 51 (A/41/51) and A/CONF.130/1 and Corr.1.

2/ See Declaration by the Panel of Eminent Personalities on Disarmament and Development, United Nations Sales Publication No, E.86.IX.5.

3/ United Nations Sales Publication No, E.87.14.8.

4/ A/CONF.130/39.

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