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REVIEW OF THE **IMPLEMENTATION OF** THE RECOMMENDATION AND DECISIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration  
of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

Report of the Secretary-General ..

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A/45/150 and Corr.1.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1965, the General Assembly adopted resolution **40/152 I**, entitled **\*@Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade\***, the operative part of which reads as follows:

**"The General Assembly,**

**"...**

**"1. Decides to adopt the relevant portion of the report of the Disarmament Commission;**

**"2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to accelerate the implementation of the activities elaborated in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as enumerated in the report of the Disarmament Commission;**

**"3. Calls upon all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon **States:****

**"(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;**

**"(b) To reaffirm their commitment to the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;**

**"(c) To adopt concrete and practical measures for preventing the outbreak of war, in particular nuclear war;**

**"(d) To take appropriate steps to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race with a view to improving the international climate and enhancing the efficacy of disarmament negotiations;**

**"(e) To exert greater efforts to the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;**

**"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. "**

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a **note verbale** dated 16 February 1990, requested all Member and non-member States to submit their views and suggestions. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from China, Mexico, Qatar and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The replies are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

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## II. **INFORMATION** RECEIVED FROM **GOVERNMENTS**

### CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

(25 June 1990]

1. Ten years **ago**, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration **of the** 1980s and the Second Disarmament Decade, which set forth the specific goals for international disarmament efforts in the Decade. **Thanks** to the support and endeavour of **the** peace-loving people in all countries and **with** the evolution in the international situation, **the** prolonged stagnation in **the** international disarmament field has begun to witness **some** improvement in recent years. While a number of preliminary results **were achieved**, **the** full realisation **of** the **specific goals of the Second** Disarmament Decade **has** not been attained and **the** tasks for advancing the cause **of** disarmament remain protracted and challenging.

2. **The** Government **of** the People's Republic of China has always pursued an independent foreign policy of peace. It opposes hegemonism and power politics, stands for genuine disarmament that is conducive to world peace and security of all countries, and advocates the establishment of a new international political order that is **just** and reasonable and **based on the five principles of peaceful** coexistence. In **keeping with this** position, China during **the** past decade not only sought extensive participation in the disarmament **efforts of the** United Nations and other multilateral bodies and presented its reasonable propositions and proposals on a wide range of **major disarmament** issues, but also took of its own accord a **series of** practical actions and measures that were beneficial to **promoting** disarmament and maintaining world peace, including a unilateral reduction **of one** million troops, thus making its contribution to the realisation of the goals set forth in the Declaration **of the Second Disarmament Decade**. **For example :**

(a) In the early 1980s, China started to carry out the work of shifting its military industries and defence technologies to civilian production on a large scale;

(b) Since 1981, China has stopped atmospheric nuclear **testing**;

(c) In 1982, China acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use **of** Certain Conventional Weapons **which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively** Injurious or to **Have Indiscriminate Effects**)

(d) In 1983, China acceded to the Agreement **Governing** the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

(e) In 1983, China acceded to **the Antarctic Treaty**;

(f) In 1984, China joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

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**(g)** In 1984, China acceded to the **Convention** on the Prohibition of the Development, **Production** and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin **Weapons and on Their Destruction**)

**(h)** From 1985 to 1987, China cut the **size** of its armed forces by one **million**;

**(i)** In 1987, China co-sponsored the **Beijing** United Nations Regional Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign with the Department for Disarmament **Affairs of the Secretariat**;

**(j)** In 1988, China signed an agreement with **IAEA** on the voluntary offer of a part of its nuclear **energy** installations to be placed under the **Agency's** safeguards;

**(k)** In 1989, China started negotiations **with** the Soviet Union on the **Agreement** on **Mutual** Reduction of Military Forces in Border Areas and the Guidance to Enhance Trust in the Military Field, which was signed the **following year**;

(1) Over the Decade, the proportion of China's defence **spending** in government expenditures decreased year after year.

3. This year, the Disarmament Commission **has** adopted by consensus the Declaration of the **1990s** as the Third Disarmament Decade. It sets **forth** the principal goals and tasks for the disarmament efforts in the Decade. The **Government** of China **endorses** the **purposes** and objectives as stipulated in the Declaration and will, as **always**, **dedicate** itself to the cause of maintaining world peace and security and make its due contribution to this end.

#### MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[16 July 1990]

1. In its resolution **40/152 L** of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly called upon all States to reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

2. Mexico's commitment to the principles and objectives of this Declaration is reflected in that country's active participation in both discussions of and negotiations on disarmament, in an unrelenting effort to achieve the ultimate **objective** of general and complete disarmament under effective international **control**.

3. In the light of this commitment to the Declaration **of** the Second Disarmament Decade, and before there is any adoption of a Declaration of a Third Decade, an evaluation should be made of the current **d'sarmament** situation.

4. Although the international community has begun to **see** a number of encouraging signs, the Government of Mexico is **disappointed** to observe, as it did when

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evaluating the achievements of the First Disarmament Decade, that a large portion of the **objectives put forward** in the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade (resolution **35/46**) remain unimplemented.

5. It should be remembered that, at the **start** of the 1980s, the outlook was **very bleak**; expenditure on armaments **had** increased tremendously world wide, the arms race threatened to spread to outer space, and the two super-Powers had suspended their dialogue.

6. In such a context, it was no accident that on 22 May 1984 the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of **Tanzania** issued the first of a series of declarations in the context of the search for peace and disarmament, stating that :

"Today, the survival of humankind is in jeopardy. The escalating arms race, the rise in international tensions and the lack of constructive **dialogue** among the nuclear-weapons **States** has increased the risk of nuclear war. Such a war, even using part of the present stockpiles, would bring death and destruction to all peoples."

7. In recent years the international community has welcomed the resumption of bilateral negotiations and the agreement reached in 1987 on intermediate-range missiles in Europe. However, it has also continued to **underscore** the urgency of undertaking multilateral negotiations on the priority issues in the disarmament sphere, in **particular the total cessation** of nuclear tests.

8. The impatience generated by the lack of any negotiations **on** total cessation of nuclear tests led the international community to consider the possibility of attaining this objective by amending the partial test-ban Treaty. The Government of Mexico hopes that the **conference** which is to be held in **January 1991** for that purpose will contribute to the achievement of this very important **goal** in the multilateral disarmament negotiations.

9. The Conference on **Disarmament**, the sole forum for multilateral negotiations on disarmament, did **not** achieve a single agreement during the Decade.

10. The Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade allotted the "utmost urgency" to the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament and urged the Conference on Disarmament to expedite its work on it. Today, 10 years later, we observe that, in its latest report (**CD/955**), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament merely records that it agreed to "resume work with a view to resolving the outstanding issues in the near future, when circumstances are more conducive to making progress in this regard".

11. During the last Decade there have been two special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1982 and 1988. Although the fact that they were held in itself demonstrated the growing interest and priority given by the international community to disarmament questions, it did not prove possible in either of the sessions to achieve a satisfactory agreement. The only concrete result was the establishment of the World Disarmament Campaign as a mechanism to enrol public opinion world wide in support of disarmament.

12. One of the few multilateral achievements of the last Decade worth mentioning is the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development which was held in 1987. Although the Member States of the United Nations did not all take part, this Conference did lead to a recognition at the political level of the relationship between disarmament and development. Examining the consequences for the world economy of the level of military spending, paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Conference (A/CONF.130/39) states:

The present world economic situation should also be seen in the context of the arms race. For certain countries the high deficits caused by military expenditures as well as the cumulative effect of subsequent rise in the interest rates have the effect of diverting substantial flows of capital away from development activities. In this sense, the whole world is affected by the arms race.

13. Mention should also be made of the Conference of States parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other Interested States, held in Paris in January 1989, the final declaration of which gave a valuable impetus to the negotiation of the Convention on chemical weapons at the Conference on Disarmament.

14. Paragraph 3 of this Declaration says that:

The participating States stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This Convention shall be global and comprehensive and effectively verifiable. It should be of unlimited duration. To this end, they call on the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the Convention at the earliest date.

15. It may be said that this Conference had two major successes<sup>1</sup>

(a) It caused 149 States to give support at a high political level to the urgent conclusion of the work going on in Geneva; and

(b) The 149 participants condemned the use of chemical weapons, which was a step forward for the Geneva negotiations.

16. Another relevant achievement of the Decade was the conclusion of the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Raratonga Treaty) in August 1985. This Treaty set up the second nuclear-free zone in a populated part of the globe.

17. Having sought to make a critical evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade, one that weighed successes as well as failures, the Government of Mexico concludes that much still remains to be done to reach the final objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

QATAR

[Original: English]

(11 April 1990)

Qatar referred to its note of 25 May 1989 (see A/44/435) and stated that the policies described therein remained those which Qatar consistently pursued in the field of disarmament.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[8 August 1990]

1. The **1980s** have witnessed **some of the most profound** and rapid changes in the post-war **era**. The beginning of the decade coincided with a peak of international tension, confrontation and stand-off of forces, which brought the world to the brink of self-destruction. The decade is ending in a dynamic reordering of international relations and in a transition to peaceful dialogue, co-operation and co-development based on universal human values.
2. During the second half of the 1980s important changes took place in the field of **disarmament** and the foundations for effective disarmament were laid. At the current talks, there is a growing trend towards a **non-confrontational, constructive** approach seeking positive solutions to the problems of disarmament. There is ever-increasing recognition that security in today's world can only be **universal, equal and identical** for all and that **it** is to be attained **through political means**. Security can be guaranteed not by a maximum, but rather by a minimum strategic balance and the confinement of military potential within the bounds of reasonable - defensive - **sufficiency**, whereby each side is in a position to defend itself, but does not create or possess the potential to **attack others**. The general recognition of the catastrophic and therefore unacceptable character of nuclear war inevitably **makes** it **necessary** to re-examine military doctrines.
3. A significant manifestation of the new political thinking in the field of disarmament has been the conclusion and subsequent implementation of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, by which the foundations were laid for genuine disarmament. Great hopes are also pinned on the rapid conclusion of such important **talks** as those on reducing strategic offensive weapons and concluding a convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons and also the **talks on** conventional weapons in Europe. The bilateral efforts of the Soviet Union and the United States regarding arms reductions, including the **agreements** concluded during the June meeting of the Presidents of the two countries, are having a substantial impact on the whole process of disarmament.
4. A **significant** role has also been played by the unilateral measures which have recently been adopted. The Soviet Union is carrying out large-scale troop and arms

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**reductions; during the period 1989-1991 the armed forces of the Soviet Union will be reduced by 500,000 men, 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery pieces and 820 combat planes. Furthermore, military units are being converted to a defensive structure. The armed forces of a number of Eastern European countries are also being reduced, on a unilateral basis. In addition, by 20 December of last year, 500 nuclear warheads had been withdrawn by the Soviet Union from the territories of Warsaw Pact countries. Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Mongolia.**

5. It is a hopeful sign that these steps taken by the USSR and other Eastern European **countries** have been followed by several reciprocal **measures** on the part of NATO, in particular the decision not to **modernize** a number of nuclear-weapons delivery systems in Europe.

6. By the end of the 1980s there had been a significant growth in the role played in **disarmament issues** by the United Nations as a centre for co-ordinating the activities of States. The Ukrainian SSR greatly appreciates the work of the United Nations in this regard and is **endeavouring** to make a corresponding contribution to these processes. Our republic supported the resolutions on disarmament adopted at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and participated actively in the drafting of a number of them. The Ukrainian delegation **is** an active member of the Disarmament Commission, as well as of other disarmament forums.

7. The Ukrainian SSR **feels** that public opinion should play a prominent role with respect to disarmament. The Ukraine supports the World Disarmament Campaign, and contributes to it financially. These contributions are used to finance **measures** of relevance to disarmament. Last year, with the help of the contribution of the Ukrainian SSR, an international Seminar on Multinational Confidence-building **Measures** and the Prevention of War was held at Kiev. A large and varied number of measures are **being** carried out in the Ukraine in support of the anti-war movement. Confidence-building measures provided for by the Stockholm agreements are also **being** implemented in the Ukraine.

8. The great significance of the Second Disarmament Decade **lies** in the fact that it gave a practical impetus to the process of implementing the agreed multilateral disarmament measures and laid a broad foundation on which to **build** in the future. This **is** the **recognition** of the need to continue talks on further reductions of strategic nuclear weapons and conventional weapons and, after the conclusion of the forthcoming agreements, to accelerate the final stages of work on the convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Notwithstanding recent positive **developments**, there remain, as acute as ever, the questions of a complete nuclear-test ban, security guarantees for non-nuclear countries, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, missiles and missile technology, the creation of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace and co-operation, as well as other means of strengthening international security through disarmament.

9. The Ukrainian SSR will continue to endeavour to **contribute** to the search for mutually acceptable solutions to these problems. The Declaration of Sovereignty of the Ukraine adopted on 16 July 1990 by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR **states that** the Ukrainian SSR, as a fully fledged participant in the international



dialogue, actively promotes the strengthening of universal peace and international security.

10. In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, all the positive aspects which have been achieved during the Second Disarmament Decade must be exploited and developed as fully as possible in the 1990s within the framework of the Third Disarmament Decade, to be proclaimed at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in order to make disarmament a global process encompassing all types of weapons and to enable all countries to make a contribution to the strengthening of international security through disarmament.