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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/117 F, the operative part of which reads as follows!

"The General Assembly,

...

"1, Appeals once again to Member States, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental **organizations**, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the effective operational activities of the **centres**;

"2, Commends the Secretary-General for all the efforts he has made in favour of the centres, and requests him to continue to provide all the necessary support to their activities)

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, as soon as **practicable**, the post of Director at each of the regional centres so as to ensure the effective functioning of the centres;

"4. Decides to rename the United Nations Regional **Centre** for Peace and Disarmament in Asia as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the **Pacific**;

"5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution. "

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL CENTRES

A. Regional Centre in Africa

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa has been operational since 1986 following its establishment in January of that year pursuant to Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. The Centre continues to carry out a number of important activities, including the organization of conferences, training **programmes on confidence-building** and the peaceful settlement of disputes, research and study and the dissemination of information within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The present report covers the activities of the Centre for the period from August 1989 through August 1990.

1. Activities of the Centre

4. Under the Centre's research activities, the project entitled "Defining an agenda for peace and progress in Africa", launched in February 1988, was completed in October 1989. Information on the implementation of the first two phases of the project was conveyed to the Assembly by the Secretary-General in his previous report (A/44/582). The first phase consisted of a preparatory meeting of experts (6-8 February 1989) at the Regional Centre at Lomé to examine and establish a catalogue of critical issues of peace and progress in Africa, taking into account the most pressing priorities and preoccupations. The second phase was in the form of a workshop of high-level experts held at the Centre (14-18 August 1999) to review the draft report of the Rapporteur-General of the project. About 40 senior experts and other personalities from all parts of the world participated in this workshop.
5. The final phase of the research project gathered members of the drafting group at the Department for Disarmament Affairs at Headquarters in New York from 22 to 24 October 1989. The drafting group noted the imperative requirement of evolving research designs premised on appropriate paradigms and theory, relevant methodology and current literature on the subject of peace and progress in Africa. To that end, it was recommended that existing theories, methods and literature needed to be reviewed to ascertain their adequacy and relevance to the African situation. It was also found necessary to interpret and clarify some key concepts on peace and security studies in the context of Africa. Priority research areas were identified and recommended by the drafting group.
6. From 5 to 16 March 1990, a workshop for senior African military and civilian officials on the topic "Conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among African States" was held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Organized by the Regional Centre within the framework of its training programme, the workshop was organised in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and its Centre for Foreign Relations.
7. The workshop was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs on 5 March 1990. Mr. Ahmed Hassan Diria, Minister of Information and Broadcasting of the United Republic of Tanzania, made the welcoming statement on behalf of the host Government. Ambassador Taher Shash, representative of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the then chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), also made a statement. The OAU Secretary-General, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, delivered the keynote address.
8. The substance of the workshop consisted of presentations by experts on the various topics considered, followed by intensive discussions with participants. A training simulation on mediation, crisis management and peaceful settlement of border disputes was also organized. In addition, film shows and slide projections were used to demonstrate or clarify certain aspects of some of the subjects examined during the workshop. A general overview was given of contemporary African and global political, military and economic affairs, including recent developments in Europe, and their relationship to peace, security, disarmament and confidence-building among African States. At the conclusion of the workshop,

participants recommended that future workshops should be held for military and civilian officials at various levels, from junior officers to cabinet officers, to discuss specific issues. It was also suggested that political leaders such as heads of the various political parties and parliaments in Africa should also be associated with future workshops, either as participants or as guest speakers.

9. Under the Centre's documentation and information activities, emphasis continued to be placed on the dissemination of information relating to peace, security and development within the African context. In this connection, a documentation/reference library was established at the Centre and efforts are underway to publish a newsletter on relevant developments in this field for wide distribution in the region.

10. The Centre published in February 1990 for its training programme a document entitled "Programme of Training on Conflict Resolution, Crisis Prevention and Management and Confidence-building among African States" (reference document). It contains texts of resolutions, decisions, declarations and conventions and other pertinent instruments adopted by the United Nations, OAU, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) that may be relevant to the issues under consideration during the programme.

11. Representatives of the Centre also visited various institutions and attended conferences sponsored by other organisations. In this connection, the Centre participated in the seventh African Regional Scout conference held at Lomé, Togo, from 20 to 24 November 1989. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre made a speech on the topic "Scouting for the promotion of peace and development".

12. The Centre was also represented at the Regional Conference of African Research Institutes organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in co-operation with the National Institute for Global Strategic Studies of Algeria, which took place from 24 to 25 March 1990 at Algiers. The main objective was to strengthen co-operation among African research institutes, to examine the current state of research in the field of disarmament and international security and to define topics for future research.

13. The Centre also participated, from 3 to 11 May 1990, at Lomé, in a training seminar on "The Law of Armed Conflicts" organized jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Accord on Non-Aggression and Mutual Assistance on Defense, which groups together Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre presented a paper on its role and activities in the field of peaceful conflict resolution in Africa. In this presentation emphasis was placed on the Centre's training programme on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among African States.

14. Visitors to the Centre's headquarters were briefed on issues relating to peace and disarmament and received relevant information materials. Delegations of political, diplomatic, academic and other leading personalities from within and outside the African region were also received at the Centre.

2. Staffing and finance

15. It will be recalled that under the terms of the General Assembly resolutions establishing three regional centres, the basis for their financing has been existing resources and voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organisations. In paragraph 3 of resolution 44/117 F, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish, as soon as practicable, the post of Director at each of the regional centres so as to ensure the effective functioning of the centres. The post of Director at the *senior* officer level was established this year under the regular budget for the Regional Centre. A new Director was appointed this year and assumed duty on 1 August 1990. From June 1989 to July 1990, the research assistant of the Centre served as the Officer-in-Charge.

16. The Secretary-General wishes to reiterate that it is necessary in order to ensure the Centre's viability and effective functioning to establish a stable base for its financing. Consequently, voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organisations and individuals will continue to be needed, especially in view of the Centre's growing programme of work and the continuing financial crisis confronting the United Nations. The Secretary-General therefore strongly supports the appeals made by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/60 D, 42/39 J, 43/76 D and 44/117 F to Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre. Furthermore, it will be recalled that the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII) (A/42/699, annex II) also reaffirmed its appeal to the international community to provide substantive assistance for the effective operation of the Centre.

17. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/44/582), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$37,858 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of \$254,554 has been received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of France, Norway, Togo, as well as the Ford and the MacArthur Foundations, for their generous contributions.

B. Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean

16. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was established under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat within the context 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.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

19. The General Assembly, in its resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, decided that the Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the Latin American *region* for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion

of economic and social development through appropriate reutilization of available resources, and should co-ordinate the implementation of the regional activities in Latin America under the World Disarmament Campaign.

20. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to serve as a resource centre on issues of peace, security, disarmament and development in the region. In that connection, the Centre expanded its contacts with concerned organisations and individuals, bookstores and the research and educational communities in the region to secure specialised publications and materials. It also sought the assistance of the United Nations information centres in the Latin American and Caribbean region in obtaining information and news clippings on arms limitation and security issues. The Centre's newsletter, *Boletín*, which is issued quarterly, presents information about United Nations events, with particular reference to Latin America and the Caribbean, and acts as a clearing-house for information on events and recent publications in this field relevant to the region. In addition, the Centre established contacts with the local media with a view to familiarising editors of Peru's main newspaper and television channel directors with the objectives and activities of the Centre.

21. Within its existing resources, the Centre continued to provide assistance and support to Governments and non-governmental organisations for their initiatives and activities in the areas of peace and disarmament. This included the organization of two events during Disarmament Week 1989. The first was an exhibit of United Nations posters and publications at the Municipal Library in Lima, jointly organised with the United Nations Information Centre. The second event was a student forum on the topic "Ecology and disarmament", which took place on 27 October. The forum brought together over 50 students from different faculties to discuss such topics as a comprehensive concept of security, Antarctica, the Pacific and the Amazon region. In addition, the Centre participated in a book exhibit at the *Universidad San Martín de Porres* in November 1989 where it widely distributed disarmament publications, including the *Boletín*. It also hosted a meeting of the Latin American Peace Research Conference at the Centre on 22 and 23 March 1990. The Centre also participated in several other disarmament-related events organised by non-governmental organizations, either in the capacity of resource persons or as speakers. This included a presentation ceremony of a book on the macroeconomic consequences of military expenditures in Peru and a seminar on challenges for Latin American security organized by the Peruvian Centre for International Studies, held at Lima in November.

22. Under the auspices of the Centre, a seminar on the topic "Alternatives for common security in South America" was held from 27 to 30 November 1989 at Lima. It was attended by 23 experts from the diplomatic, research and educational communities of the region, including two from outside the region, as well as by representatives of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Twelve papers were presented and formed the basis for the informal discussions under the five agenda items: evaluation of South America's strategic position during the post-war period; the impact on South America's strategic position of current qualitative changes in the international system; possible threats to South American countries; possible areas of security co-operation in South America; and possible criteria for common security of South America for the twenty-first century. A publication

containing the papers presented at the seminar will be produced in Spanish by the Centre and distributed to the World Disarmament Campaign constituencies and the United Nations information centres.

23. A Symposium on Regional Security in Latin America for military attaches of the region accredited in Lima, Peruvian military officers and Peruvian Foreign Ministry officials was held on 6 June 1990 under the auspices of the Regional Centre. The Symposium was chaired by General Francisco Morales Bermudez, former President of Peru and former Commander-in-Chief of the Peruvian Army. Speakers included General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin (Peru), former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of War; Ambassador Jorge Morelli (Peru), member of the United Nations group of experts on arms transfers; Dr. Augusto Varas (Chile); and Dr. Juan Veliz (Peru). Positive response to this symposium was reflected by invitations to hold similar events in Chile and Bolivia later in 1990.

24. In co-operation with the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations and the United Nations Information Centre at Buenos Aires, a seminar took place on 25 and 26 July 1990 on disarmament and arms limitation issues. The seminar, which was opened by the President of the Council and the Acting Director of the Regional Centre, was attended by 250 persons, including government officials and diplomats, representatives from educational institutions and non-governmental organizations, university students and representatives of the armed forces. A booklet will be published jointly by the Council and the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires,

25. The Centre continued to publish the Boletín quarterly. During the reporting period, four issues were published—two in the second half of 1989 and two in the first half of 1990.

2. Planned activities

26. Planned activities of the Centre for the second half of 1990 include the publishing of the topical papers presented at the seminar on Alternatives for Common Security in South America; two additional issues of the Boletín; and the preparation of a reader on disarmament issues for the 1990s in Latin America based on papers submitted by experts.

27. In collaboration with the Bolivian Armed Forces, the Centre will organize a disarmament seminar for military officers and attaches of the Latin American region, to be held in October 1990 in Bolivia. The seminar will consist of lectures and discussions, with two days held at the Advanced National Military School and at the War Colleges in La Paz and at the Army's Staff School in Cochabamba. Also, the Centre will participate in a disarmament seminar for military attaches of the region, hosted by the Joint Studies Programme on Latin American International Relations at Santiago, Chile, on 25 October 1990, following the Twelfth Annual Meeting of centres affiliated with the Programme, from 21 to 24 October.

28. The Centre will also co-ordinate with the Department for Disarmament Affairs the organization of a conference on chemical weapons and other disarmament-related issues, to be held at Caracas, in the first quarter of 1991, at the invitation of the Government of Venezuela.

29. Depending on the availability of funds, the Centre is proposing a programme of activities including a one and one half day seminar on disarmament and development for representatives of the diplomatic, official and academic circles; a three-day seminar on disarmament for university students in the faculties of law, economics and political science; an exhibit of posters and stamps on peace and disarmament; a three-day regional seminar on peace, disarmament and development for disarmament experts from the Central American region and Mexico; and a three-day meeting of experts to discuss the disarmament reader prepared under the auspices of the Regional Centre and the subsequent publishing of the reader by the Centre.

3. Staffing and finance

30. By its resolution 41/60 J, the General Assembly decided to establish the Centre on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in accordance with the terms on which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre.

31. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/44/584), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$55,067 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of \$44,824 has been received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador, Norway, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay for their generous contributions.

32. The Centre continues to function with the assistance of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the Director of the United Nations Information Centre at Lima is entrusted with the additional functions of the Director of the Regional Centre, on an interim basis. The Director is assisted by a locally recruited research assistant in the discharge of the Centre's functions. As the secretary/librarian departed in June 1990, the Centre proposes to recruit a part-time librarian to deal with the growing amount of work in the library. The Centre continues to share the premises of the Information Centre but has become operationally independent during the reporting period owing to the acquisition of its own office equipment.

C. Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific

33. **The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific functions under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which acts as the focal point for co-ordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is entrusted, on an interim basis, with the functions of the Director of the Centre. The Centre is temporarily housed in the UNDP building at Kathmandu, Nepal-**

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

34. **In resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly decided that the Regional Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asian region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources, and that it should also co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia under the World Disarmament Campaign.**

35. **Since its inauguration on 30 January 1989, the Centre has begun to carry out its activities on a regular basis. However, because of resource constraints, both human and financial, its activities have been limited to the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, answering inquiries from the general public, students and non-governmental organisations and organizing one major meeting at Kathmandu.**

36. **A Regional Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region was held at Kathmandu from 29 to 31 January 1990. The meeting was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and a welcoming statement was made by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay. Forty-two participants from Governments, research institutes and non-governmental organisations attended the meeting. Bearing in mind the views expressed by representatives of the diplomatic community, research institutes, the media and non-governmental organizations who participated in the informal meeting on the future work and priorities of the Centre, held at Kathmandu on 30 and 31 January 1989, it was decided that a subregional approach should be adopted in organizing this first regional meeting. Hence, the meeting focused its attention on two subregions, namely, that of South Asia and North-East Asia. Nine speakers made presentations on various topics.**

37. **In all, the meeting held three plenary sessions, on the first day and the third. It met simultaneously as two working groups on the second day. Working Group I focused its attention on the South Asian subregion, and Working Group II focused its attention on the North-East Asian subregion. The papers presented at the regional meeting and the summaries by the moderators of the working groups were subsequently published by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.**

38. In a note to the Secretary-General dated 12 July 1990, New Zealand stated that it fully supported the work of the Centre and expressed the belief that a beneficial focus for the Centre over the next year would be the development of a regional environment in which confidence-building measures could be usefully elaborated.

2 . Staffing and finance

39. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organisations might make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasise that, in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre. The costs of the regional meeting held at Kathmandu were met largely from extrabudgetary contributions.

40. The implementation of paragraph 3 of resolution 44/117 F would entail the establishment under the regular budget of posts of directors at the senior officer level at each of the three regional centres. The establishment of the posts would be phased sequentially and annually over the 1990-1992 period. The post of Director for the Regional Centre at Kathmandu is to be established in 1992. In addition to the UNDP resident representative who serves as Director ad interim of the Centre, the United Nations Information Officer has also assisted the Centre in carrying out its mandate,

41. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/44/583), voluntary contributions in the amount of \$199,719 have been pledged to the Centre and a total of \$198,710 has been received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines and Thailand, and the Japanese non-governmental organization Rissho Kosei-Kai, for their generous contributions.
