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Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Third session, 23-27 June 2003, New York

Working paper presented by the Chairman

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, in its resolution 57/61 of 22 November 2002, adopted without a vote, to establish an open-ended working group, working on the basis of consensus, to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, taking note of the paper presented by the Chairman of Working Group II during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission as well as the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly,

The Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament *has identified the following:*

- (a) The objectives of the fourth special session should include, inter alia,
- to assess the international situation in the field of disarmament since the convening of the first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978 with reference to all disarmament issues in order to strengthen international peace and security;
 - to identify challenges and obstacles to multilateral efforts for future actions on issues related to disarmament with a view to the adoption of a final document at the fourth special session devoted to disarmament;
 - to promote international stability based on the principle of undiminished security for all States;

- to strengthen the central role of the United Nations and promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament with a view to achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

European Union proposal:

- to assess the international situation in the field of disarmament **and non-proliferation** since the convening of the first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978 [~~with reference to all disarmament issues~~] in order to strengthen international peace and security;
- to identify challenges and obstacles [~~to multilateral efforts~~] for future actions on issues related to disarmament **and non-proliferation** with a view to the adoption of a final document at the fourth special session [~~devoted to disarmament;~~] **which will set guidelines, priorities and practical measures related to disarmament, non-proliferation and security;**
- to promote international stability based on the principle of undiminished security for all States;
- to strengthen the central role of the United Nations **on disarmament and non-proliferation issues** [*make new bullet with end of paragraph*];
- to promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament **and non-proliferation and to enhance regional and international cooperation** with a view to achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Russian Federation proposal:

At the end of bullet 2 of the European Union proposal, add:

..... and will reflect comprehensive and consensus approaches to promote disarmament.

Republic of Korea proposal:

Add new bullet 6 to the European Union proposal:

To address the ways and means of promoting the implementation of full compliance with and universal adherence to the international agreements in the field of WMD and their delivery systems as well as conventional weapons.

Non-Aligned Movement proposal:

- to work towards achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;
- to assess the current international situation in the field of disarmament, and its relation to preserving international peace and security;
- to provide for a comprehensive, thorough discussion and review as well as an assessment of all issues in the field of disarmament and international security, including those of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, non-proliferation in all its aspects and disarmament machinery;

- to identify challenges and obstacles, and ways and means to address them, for future actions on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to adopting a final document of the fourth special session devoted to disarmament, including the possibility of concluding a programme of action;
 - to reaffirm guidelines, principles and priorities set out in the first special session devoted to disarmament and to assess its implementation, and to take into consideration the possibility of setting additional guidelines and practical measures related to disarmament;
 - to emphasize, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament, and to further strengthen the disarmament machinery established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session;
 - to promote international stability based on the principle of undiminished security for all States;
 - to promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament and to enhance cooperation at all levels;
- (b) The agenda of the fourth special session should include, inter alia:
- Implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament
 - The international situation since the first special session, the post-cold-war era and trends at global, regional and subregional levels
 - Nuclear weapons
 - o Nuclear disarmament
 - o Nuclear non-proliferation
 - o Nuclear-weapon-free zones
 - o Security assurances
 - o Non-strategic nuclear weapons
 - o Nuclear danger
 - o Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty/CTBT
 - o Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty/FMCT
 - Other weapons of mass destruction
 - o Chemical weapons
 - o Biological weapons
 - o Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons
 - Outer space
 - o Prevention of an arms race in outer space

- Conventional weapons
 - o The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
 - o Other conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects
 - o Anti-personnel mines
 - o National legislation on transfers of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology
- Regional disarmament and security
 - o Regional disarmament
 - o Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels
- Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments
 - o Transparency in armaments
 - o Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements
 - o Verification
 - o Safeguards
- Disarmament machinery
 - o Conference on Disarmament
 - o United Nations Disarmament Commission
 - o Regional centres
 - o Department for Disarmament Affairs
 - o Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
 - o Groups of Governmental Experts
 - o UNIDIR
 - o United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme
- Other disarmament measures
 - o Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
 - o Disarmament and non-proliferation education
 - o Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
 - o Relationship between disarmament and development
 - o United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
 - o Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
 - o Cooperation with civil society and NGOs

- Related matters of disarmament and international security
 - o Missiles
 - o Terrorism and weapons of mass destruction
 - o Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures
 - International security
 - o Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation
 - o Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
 - o Maintenance of international security — good neighbourliness, stability and development of South-Eastern Europe
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