Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 56

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 37/84, adopted at the thirty-seventh session on 9 December 1982, the General Assembly recalled resolution 36/92 G of 9 December 1981 in which, inter alia, it commended the study entitled *The Relationship between Disarmament and Development* 1/ and its conclusions and recommendations. Recalling also its consideration at the twelfth special session and the proposals on the follow-up decisions regarding the report (A/S-12/18 and A/S-12/AC.1/49), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate administrative action as specified in chapter VII of the study.

II. BACKGROUND

2. The Group of Governmental Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to study the relationship between disarmament and development stated, in chapter VII of the study, inter alia, that the issues addressed by the report regarding resource utilization, impact of the arms race, conversion problems and possible measures for reallocating resources could be appropriate points of reference for United Nations research, planning and educational programmes, and unanimously recommended that the disarmament-development perspective elaborated in the report be incorporated in a concrete and practical way in the ongoing activities of the United Nations system. Emphasizing that the disarmament-development perspective is both interdisciplinary and interdepartmental, the Group had also recommended that the Secretary-General take appropriate action, through the existing interagency consultative mechanism of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to foster and co-ordinate the incorporation of that perspective in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system. Noting that there was no special centre of expertise in the international dimensions of the relationship between disarmament and development nor any part of the United Nations system with this particular focus, the Group had identified the Centre for Disarmament, 2/ and the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as the two units having lead functions in the fields of disarmament and development.

3. A global perspective on the relationship between disarmament and development, as elaborated in the study, views this relationship at two levels: (a) the economic consequences of the arms race on international economic exchanges, whether these pertain to finance, trade, technology, developmental assistance or to other forms of international interactions; and (b) the impact of national military expenditures on economic performance, as in the areas of employment, inflation, rates of economic growth, productivity in the civilian sector of the economy, capital formation, etc. Taking the position that military expenditures, by definition, fall into the category of consumption and not investment, the report views the relationship between disarmament and development as a two-way street wherein development not only benefits from but also contributes towards disarmament because sluggish economic performance, lack of development, or underdevelopment represent non-military challenges to national and international security. Subsequent to the adoption of resolution 37/84, this interrelated perspective of the relationship between disarmament and development in the context of security considerations has received increasing attention in various forums.

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4. In consultation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has brought the subject to the consideration of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (PROG) with a view to the appropriate action being undertaken for interagency consultation to foster and co-ordinate the incorporation of the disarmament-development perspective into the programmes and activities of the United Nations system. The relationship between disarmament and development was discussed during the first regular session of the Committee, held at Geneva from 10 to 15 March 1983, on the basis of a background note on the subject prepared by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Committee noted that disarmament-related issues were receiving, in general, increasing interest in the governing bodies of the various organizations of the United Nations system, and that, as a consequence, several organizations had received specific mandates in this area. It recognized that the issues related to the arms race and to disarmament were of a multidisciplinary nature and were to be approached as such by the United Nations system; this was also an area where the strong interest expressed by the organizations of the system gave an opportunity of reinforcing the ongoing or planned activities through collaboration and co-operation. The members of the Committee expressed their intention to pursue and strengthen their collaboration with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and to that end decided that the organs and organizations of the United Nations system should designate focal points to facilitate continuing informal contacts with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Furthermore, the Committee was of the view that ad hoc groups of technical experts in the field of disarmament might be convened when necessary, in order to carry out specific tasks, such as the preparation of inputs to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The Committee agreed to continue considering the item relating to the relationship between disarmament and development whenever appropriate.

5. In April 1983, the Department for Disarmament Affairs approached the various departments, organs and organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system as well as the regional commissions to seek the designation of focal points for further contacts and to explore the possibility of convening an ad hoc group of technical experts to implement the decision of COSP (PROG). The Department for Disarmament Affairs also sought information on whether any specific mandates were already being implemented wherein a disarmament-development perspective could be appropriately incorporated.

6. In response, focal points for further contacts with the Department for Disarmament Affairs so far have been identified by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Department of Public Information, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the
International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

A. Implementation of specific mandates

7. Information has been received about some specific mandates already being implemented in areas related to disarmament and development.

1. United Nations

Department for International Economic and Social Affairs

8. The work of the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade has a disarmament-development component. The crucial importance of this issue is reflected in the preamble and in paragraph 114 of the Strategy (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex). Both the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategy and the report of the ACC Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives, will be taking cognizance of the problem of disarmament and development. Also relevant in this context is Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/18 of 26 May 1983 on the adverse effects of the arms race on social progress and development, whereby the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, every three years, through the Commission for Social Development and in the framework of his report on the world social situation, a section on the adverse effects of the arms race on social progress and development in the world. The 1985 Report on the World Social Situation is to be completed by August 1984.

Department of Public Information

9. The Department of Public Information has included in their programme of activities dissemination of information on the issue of disarmament and development. The following activities were undertaken by the Department.

Press coverage and publications

(a) Statements made at intergovernmental meetings citing the relationship between disarmament and development were reflected in press releases issued in English and French for use by media representatives and non-governmental organizations and for distribution to United Nations information centres world-wide.

(b) Development Forum carried a series of four special articles on disarmament and development, drawing, in a number of instances, upon the reports
prepared in connection with the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development on the topic.

(c) **The World Newspaper Supplement**, No. 15, which appeared in January 1983 was devoted to the subject. The supplement was issued by all participating newspapers, including Development Forum.

(d) A special edition of the kit on disarmament and development is being prepared.

(e) A special chapter on United Nations activities in the field of disarmament and development was revised and updated in the collection of model teaching units, United Nations and World Concerns.

(f) The 1982 United Nations Day Students' Leaflet dealt with the topic of disarmament and development in its treatment of disarmament and the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

(g) The topic was also covered in the **UN Chronicle**, including the July 1983 issue.

**Audio-visual activities**

(a) The subject was featured in some of the 30 in-depth radio programmes devoted to disarmament, with one programme in the series Perspective being devoted exclusively to "Disarmament and Development: the latest views from Washington and Moscow".

(b) The film "The Big If", dealing with the economic and social consequences of disarmament, was produced in August 1982. More than 140 prints were sold to media organizations around the world and about 300 prints were automatically distributed or loaned to all United Nations information centres and UNDP offices. WNET Channel 13 in New York, Norwegian television, Swiss television and the BBC, London bought telecast rights of the film.

(c) A 17-minute video production completed in 1982 dealt with economic conversion and the relationship between disarmament and development.

(d) In the exhibit organized in July/August 1983 at the Palais des Nations at Geneva, entitled "Nuclear Arms: Threat to our World", an entire section was devoted to disarmament and development.

**United Nations information centres and field offices' activities**

(a) The United Nations information centres gave increased emphasis in their public information activities to the social and economic consequences of the arms race and to the corresponding benefits of disarmament.
(b) The relevant public information materials were distributed to the local media, to governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, to educators, schools, universities and individuals concerned. Several information centres translated and printed those materials in local languages.

Activities of non-governmental organizations

(a) During the annual DPI/NGO Conference "Spears or Pruning Hooks? The Impact of the Arms Race on Society" held in September 1982, several briefings and workshops dealt with the topic.

(b) In co-operation with United Schools International, a seminar was organized in New Delhi to discuss the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development. The Indian Institute of Defence Studies participated in the work of the seminar.

Other activities

(a) At the United Nations Conference on Education held in Brussels and Luxembourg from 25 April to 6 May 1983 with the participation of 30 high-ranking policy-makers in the field of education from 25 countries, three meetings were devoted to peace education and disarmament, including the issue of disarmament and development.

(b) The issue was discussed at the World Mass Media Leaders' Roundtable held in Manila (May 1983).

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

10. In line with its mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 37/84, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research has established a steering group to orient its activities in accordance with the guidelines given in paragraph 97 of its report (A/38/475) which states that the UN/IDIR study of the modalities for the establishment of an International Disarmament Fund for Development (IDFD) would bear in mind that:

(a) IDFD should be the expression of a political commitment to disarmament and should not be used to legitimize the arms race;

(b) The objective of IDFD should be to promote security through disarmament and through development;

(c) The establishment of an international disarmament fund for development should develop the link between disarmament and development at the political and institutional levels;

(d) The setting-up of an international disarmament fund for development should serve to increase the awareness of the international community as a whole of the importance of the link between disarmament and development, for it will be in the interests both of the developed countries and of the developing countries;
(e) The study ought to be sufficiently concrete to elicit, as speedily as possible, political initiatives on the part of Governments and within the framework of the United Nations.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

11. Within the general framework of disarmament-development relationship UNCTAD is concerned with the trade and economic aspects of disarmament. The legal basis for UNCTAD activities in this field is provided by UNCTAD resolution 44/III (1972) entitled "Trade and economic aspects of disarmament". It requests, in particular, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue studies on the positive influence of disarmament on international trade and development, and also requests the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to pay constant attention to trade and economic aspects of disarmament. Considerable attention was paid to disarmament and development perspective and to trade and economic aspects of disarmament by UNCTAD at its sixth session, held at Belgrade (6 June-3 July 1983). The trade and development aspects of disarmament had not been included in the agenda of Conference as a separate item. However, an understanding was reached among member countries that this issue would be considered during the discussion of item 8 (The world economic situation with special emphasis on development: approaches to the current world economic crisis and perspectives for the 1980s including issues, policies and measures relevant to the attainment of a new international economic order). Taking into account UNCTAD resolution 44/III and General Assembly resolution 37/84 on the relationship between disarmament and development, as well as the stress laid by UNCTAD at its sixth session on the atmosphere of peace, harmony and co-operation, halting the arms race and the adoption of disarmament measures as a condition for a sustained global development and a viable international economic order, UNCTAD will continue to pay constant attention to trade and economic aspects of disarmament in order to contribute to the improvement of international co-operation in its field of competence and to accelerate the trade and economic development, especially of developing countries.

United Nations Environment Programme

12. The United Nations Environment Programme is implementing several decisions emphasizing the impacts of military activities and the arms race on nature, and expressing concern, among other issues, at the use of natural resources and the impact thereof on the process of development. UNEP has also initiated a programme on the arms race and the environment, the main elements of which are summarized in chapter XV of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1984-1989.

13. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 37/215, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a factual study on the problem of remnants of war, particularly mines.

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Specialized agencies and IAEA

International Labour Organisation

14. The International Labour Organisation is carrying out a specific mandate to undertake certain research work in 1984/85 as approved by the International Labour Conference. The specific reference in the ILO research programme is addressed to two questions: the conversion of manpower employed for military purposes, and the economic and social consequences of reallocating resources previously used for military purposes to the developing countries.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

15. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has granted resolution 37/84 priority within the framework of the draft Programme and budget for 1984-1985. Resolution 2/13 adopted by the General Conference at its fourth extraordinary session, and concerning major programme XIII (Peace, international understanding, human rights and the rights of peoples) of the second medium-term plan for 1984-1989, provides the mandate for its activities.

World Health Organization

16. The World Health Organization, in its resolution WHA 36.28, expressed a strong belief that the organization, in implementing the recommendation to "continue the work of collecting, analysing and regularly publishing accounts of activities and further studies on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services", would contribute to the recognition of peace as a moral and social issue and as a human right. Furthermore, the fostering of increased awareness of the terrible consequences of nuclear war would lead to the strengthening of support for disarmament at all levels.

International Atomic Energy Agency

17. The International Atomic Energy Agency has drawn attention to article III.B.1 of its statute, wherein it is stated that the Agency shall conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international co-operation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies. The Agency has also referred to article II, which states that the Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose. IAEA has made particular reference to its Annual Report for 1982 and to volume 24 of its bulletin.
B. Activities of other organizations devoting attention to the disarmament-development perspective

18. Even without having received a specific mandate so far, several components of the United Nations system are devoting attention to the disarmament-development perspective in their particular areas of concern.

1. United Nations

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

19. The Centre is conducting a study entitled "Transnational Corporations and the Armaments Industry".

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

20. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has referred in particular to the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development and to the third session of the Committee on Social Development, where several participating member countries had expressed concern over the increasing world-wide trend of allocating considerable portions of valuable and scarce national resources to armaments owing to recent international developments, which, it was felt, could possibly be to the detriment of programmes for social welfare and social as well as economic development.

21. ESCAP has also pointed out that the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session had designated 1985 as International Youth Year with the themes of "Participation, Development, Peace". In view of the emphasis of the Year on the preservation of world peace and the promotion of international co-operation and understanding, it is expected that the subject of the ideals of peace and youth's role in the study and resolution of major national, regional and international problems, including disarmament, will be taken up at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for International Youth Year to be convened at ESCAP this year.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

22. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has drawn attention to the fact that, during the deliberations of the Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session on item 6 of its agenda (Follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Third General Conference of UNIDO and the decisions and recommendations to the eleventh special session of the General Assembly relevant to industrial development), several delegations proposed that "large sums of money could be made available for the economic development of the developing countries if a part of the funds at present spent on armaments would be used for that purpose". The Board noted this proposal in its conclusion on the agenda item, which was adopted by consensus with reservations by one delegation on that particular statement. This is reflected in document ID/B/289, paragraphs 71 and 234.

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United Nations Children's Fund

23. The United Nations Children's Fund has drawn attention to the message of its Executive Board in 1982, which reiterated the basic facts and principles of its 1978 message. In the developing countries with which UNICEF co-operates, on the average:

(a) The infant mortality is eight times that of the industrialized countries;
(b) Malnutrition affects one quarter of all children;
(c) Less than one half of the children of primary school age attend school;
(d) Less than 20 per cent of rural children have access to adequate health facilities.

The Board appealed to the General Assembly to take, at the second special session devoted to disarmament, whatever steps it appropriately could in order to ensure that there might be a reduction of expenditures on armaments so that a portion of the savings could be channelled through national or multinational programmes towards meeting the minimum requirements of children everywhere - adequate nutrition, safe water, primary health care and suitable education. These are entitlements under the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and are based equally on the principles of humanitarianism and the pragmatic necessities for sustained development.

United Nations Development Programme

24. Observing that the release of financial resources from disarmament measures may have a relevance for multilateral development assistance, the United Nations Development Programme has recalled its interest in these areas as expressed by the Administrator of UNDP during the twelfth special session of the General Assembly where three concrete proposals were put forward:

(a) To issue annually a development implications study accompanying a report on the year's world armaments expenditures to the General Assembly;
(b) To use the UNDP mechanism for multilateral aid allocation and co-ordination to channel redeployed resources for development purposes, independent of the approach used in procuring such resources, that is, the dividend or the levy approach;
(c) To establish various United Nations "corps" (for food, health, education, energy) to which individuals with technical skills gained in the military forces would be attached and which would be available to meet development needs. The corps would have to be financed out of the given military budgets and would thus be an interim measure between military and fully civilian service.

25. UNDP has also suggested that the result of the international research commissioned by the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between
Disarmament and Development should be brought to the attention of the public. A complete set of the research projects submitted by the Group has been added to the United Nations library in New York and will be made similarly available at the United Nations library in Geneva.

2. Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

26. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has referred to the statements of its Director-General who, on numerous occasions, has drawn the attention of the international community to the disastrous consequence of armament on development in general and agriculture and food in particular.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

27. With regard to the initiatives taken by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, various offices, agencies, and other organs of the United Nations have expressed interest in the subject as it relates to specific areas of their activities. On the basis of communications received as well as direct personal contacts, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation plans to convene in early 1984 an ad hoc group of technical experts with a view to discussing the further implementation of the decisions taken by CCSQ (PHUG).

28. The Department for Disarmament Affairs has been receiving a growing number of requests for an elaboration of the basic reasoning of the Secretary-General's report entitled The Relationship between Disarmament and Development, 1/ for further investigation of the problems covered in the report, for the supply of additional information relevant to the report, and for expert advice to facilitate programmes and activities undertaken with a view to incorporate this perspective. Such requests have come from the representatives of Member States, as well as from other departments, agencies, organizations, organs and regional commissions of the United Nations system, and also from both the general public and specialized public interest groups. The Secretariat has issued information materials designed to meet these requests as appropriate at various levels. The Secretary-General's report on the relationship between disarmament and development has been issued as No. 5 in the United Nations Study Series on disarmament, 1/ which appears in the six official languages of the General Assembly. The Secretariat has encouraged the publication of the study in Member States, in full or in shortened or popularized versions. Also, Disarmament Fact Sheet No. 21, prepared by the Department for Disarmament Affairs contains a popularized summary of the study.

29. The Department for Disarmament Affairs is also promoting greater attention to the disarmament-development perspective in the media, as well as through symposia and other educational and public information activities within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, which was launched by the second special session devoted to disarmament held in New York, in June-July 1982. Members of the
Secretariat lecture on the issue to the key constituencies of the World Disarmament Campaign. The theme of disarmament and development was also included in the programme of a series of regional conferences that were held in India, Kenya, Mexico, Romania and Thailand. It has been repeated in another conference of this kind in Venezuela in October 1983. The address of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs to UNCTAD at its sixth session, held at Belgrade in June 1983, was devoted primarily to the relationship between disarmament and development.

30. In view of the growing interest in the subject and in order to cater for the increasing attention it is receiving from both experts and others generally concerned with the issue, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has undertaken to prepare an annotated bibliographical survey of literature on the basic themes covered by the Secretary-General's report on the relationship between disarmament and development. In preparing this survey, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is benefiting from the co-operation of UNESCO and the Department of Public Information as well as the academic and research institutes with which it has established contacts in pursuance of the decision by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2, para. 123). This may also prove useful to the focal points that have been designated by the various bodies of the United Nations system to maintain contact with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The survey has been started with the assistance of the internship programme of the Department of Public Information. It will be carried out by relying on human, financial and technical resources now available in the Secretariat, including those of the United Nations library, and the United Nations computer facilities.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IX.1. (Originally distributed under the symbol A/36/356 and Corr.1.)

2/ The Centre for Disarmament has been transformed into the Department for Disarmament Affairs in accordance with resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982.