Fortieth session
Agenda item 61 (a)

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
WORLD DISARMAMENT COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

United Nations regional centre for peace and
disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 39/63 J of 12 December 1984, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to such Member States in the regions concerned as might request it with a view to establishing regional and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign, on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions which Member States might make to that end, and to report to the Assembly at its fortieth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly entitled "World Disarmament Campaign" (A/40/443), paragraph 13 of which states as follows:

"Pursuant to resolution 39/63 J, the Secretary-General has been consulting with relevant regional bodies and individual Member States in order to determine the terms of reference for regional and institutional arrangements and the modalities that would best ensure their implementation. Following such consultations and provided the necessary resources are available for this purpose, a more detailed plan for the implementation of this resolution will be formulated."

The Secretary-General wishes to inform the General Assembly that the consultations have now been concluded with respect to a specific request received from States members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and that he proposes the plan outlined below for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/63 J, with respect to that specific request.

II. BACKGROUND

3. At its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa, from 16 to 20 July 1985, the Assembly of Heads of State or Government of OAU adopted resolution AHG/Res.138(XXI) by which it, inter alia, expressed its firm conviction of the interrelationship between security, development and disarmament and the need for the United Nations to establish an institutional arrangement in Africa to conduct in-depth studies and to promote the objectives of peace, disarmament and development; welcomed United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/63 J, envisaging the establishment of regional institutional arrangements under the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign programme; and invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with that resolution, to take the necessary measures to establish such a regional office in Africa.

4. Furthermore, the OAU Ministerial Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa, held at Lomé, from 13 to 16 August 1985, in its "Programme of Action for Peace, Security and Co-operation in Africa", called upon:

"... the Secretary-General of the United Nations to create as soon as possible a United Nations regional centre in Africa for peace and disarmament, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/63 J which

/.../
envisages the establishment of a regional organ under the World Disarmament Campaign programme of the United Nations and OAU resolution A/Res.138(XXI) of the Assembly of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity requesting that such a centre be established in Africa."

The OAU Ministerial Conference also welcomed "... with appreciation the offer of the Government of Togo to host the proposed centre for peace and disarmament and provide to the United Nations, at no cost, office space for the centre".

5. Referring to the functions of the proposed centre, the OAU Ministerial Conference stressed in its Programme of Action "the utmost importance" for the centre to serve as a focal point for promoting co-ordination and harmonization of the research, study, documentation and information activities of the region in the interrelated fields of peace, security, disarmament and development, in co-operation with the institutions of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations University.

III. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN AFRICA

6. Taking into account the above-mentioned requests by States members of OAU and following further consultations on the matter, the scope and functions of the proposed centre might be concerned with three major areas, namely: information/documentation, research, and advisory services upon request, as well as the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign.

7. Structure: in the initial phase, the centre will be established under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Department will act 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.

8. Staffing and finance: it is the intention of the Secretary-General to make the maximum use of existing resources. However, these resources are limited and programmed among activities mandated by appropriate legislative action. It will therefore also be necessary to seek voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations in order to meet staff requirements and the basic operating and administrative costs of the centre. A special effort will be made to raise voluntary contributions.