Fortieth session
Agenda item 69 (c)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Preparations for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 40/155 adopted on 16 December, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Disarmament and Development and approved its recommendation. It authorized, inter alia, an extension of the mandate of the Preparatory Committee to make substantive preparations for the Conference, which will be held in Paris from 15 July to 2 August 1986. The broad nature of these preparations is described in section III, G of the report of the Preparatory Committee. In view of the limited time and in anticipation of approval by the General Assembly of the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretariat has carried out some preparatory work.

A. Additional sessions of the Preparatory Committee

2. By paragraph 6 of resolution 40/155, the General Assembly authorized the Preparatory Committee to hold one or, if necessary, two additional sessions of two weeks' duration. In paragraph 7 the Assembly decided that the session or sessions should be held in New York, taking into account all relevant factors, including the need for minimizing costs and for adequate representation.

3. Following consultations between the Department of Conference Services and the members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, it is proposed that the next session of the Preparatory Committee should be held from 1 to 11 April 1986 in New York. Should the Preparatory Committee decide to hold an additional session, this would take place from 2 to 13 June 1986 in New York.
4. In proposing this time schedule, several relevant considerations have been borne in mind besides the need for minimizing costs and for adequate representation, such as the spacing between the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee, the availability of interpretation and meetings services during a very heavy calendar year for 1986 and the time required for preparation of documentation. In this last respect, attention is drawn to section I, paragraph 4, of resolution 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, which reads:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"Decides that in drawing up future calendars of conferences and meetings the implications on the capacity of the documentation services of the Secretariat to process and issue in time the documentation required for the sessions of all scheduled organs should be taken into account".

B. Appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference

5. By paragraph 8 of resolution 40/155 the Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference. The Secretary-General has appointed Mr. Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

C. Documentation

6. In accordance with the recommendations made in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference will have at its disposal a number of documents and papers. Prepared as background papers, these include the following short, succinct documents, based upon available information and analysis while taking into account the need to update existing materials as appropriate:

Overview of United Nations involvement
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Item 9 of the provisional agenda
Item 10 of the provisional agenda
Bibliography
Compilation of agreed formulations

7. In the light of the information and analysis available and in consultation with the members of the Bureau, the Secretary-General of the Conference will also make available some new documents and papers, on a strictly selective basis and related to the substantive items in the provisional agenda of the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

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8. With a view to making full use of the United Nations system, as recommended in paragraph 20 of the report of the Preparatory Committee, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Disarmament Affairs has held consultations with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Consequently, a task force of key units in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations has been set up to assist the Secretary-General of the Conference in the preparation of documentation. Besides the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the task force consists of senior officials from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme. In accordance with the recommendation given in section III, H of the report of the Preparatory Committee to give the widest possible dissemination of information relating to the Conference, a senior official of the Department of Public Information is included in the task force.

9. In addition, all the focal points on the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations system have been invited to contribute to the preparation of documentation within their own areas of competence and on the basis of information and analysis available in existing documents and those under preparation. As appropriate, the relevant inputs will either be absorbed in the preparation of basic documents referred to in paragraph 6 above or attached as annexes. The focal points were designated in pursuance of resolution 37/84 of 9 December 1982, and the co-ordination mechanism established thereby is described, inter alia, in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/436). The first ad hoc meeting of focal points was convened in April 1984 in pursuance of resolution 38/71 A of 15 December 1983 for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session (A/40/618). The second ad hoc meeting was held on 10 October 1985 in pursuance of the recommendation made by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 20 of its report that all use should be made of the United Nations system for the preparation of documentation for the Conference.

D. Panel of eminent persons

10. In accordance with paragraph 21 of the report of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference will convene a panel of eminent persons active in the field of disarmament and development, drawn from different regions of the world and covering a wide range of views, in order to channel their input for the benefit of the Conference into the preparatory process. Bearing in mind the time needed to put together such a panel and to make adequate preparations, it is proposed that the panel should be convened from 16 to 18 April 1986 at Headquarters in New York. The format and composition of the panel will be determined by the Secretary-General in consultation with the members of the Bureau.

Notes
