PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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ITALY

[Original: English]

[15 May 1987]

1. Italy shares with the other Members of the United Nations the view that the achievement of across-the-board cuts in military arsenals, if pursued with the purpose of establishing a balance of forces at lower levels, is a primary goal which deserves the careful attention and active contribution of all countries. In decisively following the path of disarmament the international community responds to a basic requirement of our time.

2. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will be the appropriate forum for assessing the complex issues involved in the arms control and disarmament process and for building in a realistic way upon past efforts.

3. Italy is confident that the special session will provide an important opportunity for widening the area of consensus which exists among its participants. There is today a trend in international relations which favours the search for solutions to a number of problems with which the international community has been confronted for a long time. There is also ground for assessing with optimism the possibility that meaningful and effective arms reduction agreements are reached. This positive juncture should give momentum to the efforts which will be deployed from all sides in the course of the special session with the purpose of fostering the process of arms control and disarmament.

4. On the other hand experience has shown that problems are best solved when tackled with a realistic attitude. The aspiration to a better future is shared by all. It should not lead however to ignoring the existence of difficulties and constraints which on the contrary need to be dealt with. This is particularly true in the light of the fact that, as pointed out above, conditions seem ripe to yield some concrete results and thus overcome the drawbacks of the second special session.

5. Italy believes that the path to further positive developments in the work of the General Assembly in the field of disarmament was set by the conclusions reached at the first special session in 1978. The Final Document adopted by the session contained elements and concepts which provided national Governments with guidelines for pursuing the goal of arms control in the political climate then prevailing. Most of these guidelines continue to represent today a valid basis for the work of the United Nations.

6. Italy considers that a flexible approach will have to be followed in updating and further advancing the conclusions of the first special session if positive results are to be achieved. The same flexibility will be needed in the course of the preparatory work, in order to create the necessary basis for a forward-looking and realistic debate in the coming session.
7. In Italy's view, the third special session should be devoted primarily to reviewing the most relevant developments of recent years in the field of arms control and the prospects of possible new achievements. Issues for discussion should be selected so as to reflect those areas where further consensus is most likely to develop, thereby offering the effective support of the General Assembly to current negotiations.

8. Accordingly, nuclear problems, which traditionally represent a focal point of discussion, should be dealt with by the special session on the basis of a pragmatic approach which takes into account the progress achieved at the bilateral talks held by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Geneva. The third special session should also focus on other issues where promising developments have recently occurred, such as the elimination of chemical weapons and conventional disarmament.

9. As a logic complement of the above items, Italy would also like to see included in the agenda the problems linked to improved verification of arms control and disarmament agreements as well as questions related to the transparency of military budgets in the arms control process and confidence-building measures. Special attention should also be paid to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and to proposals aimed at promoting a more effective approach to the problem of arms control and disarmament.

10. Italy believes that the adoption of such an agenda at the special session would contribute to alleviating some of the anxiety caused by the size and quality of military arsenals throughout the world. The paramount goal must be that of progressively reducing those arsenals, while ensuring greater security for all and promoting lasting peace and stability. Through its active and productive participation in the preparations for and in the special session itself, Italy is determined to make its contribution to the achievement of this worthy objective.

NORWAY

[Original: English]

[18 May 1987]

1. The third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament represents an important test of the United Nations ability to enhance its role in the field of disarmament. It is therefore of particular importance that realistic objectives are set for the special session. The Norwegian Government will contribute actively to a positive outcome of the special session.

2. It should be stressed that the decisions at the special session are to be made by consensus. The Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament must be the foundation on which the consideration of disarmament issues should begin.
3. As a means for the special session to focus the role of the United Nations in disarmament matters, efforts should be made in order to concentrate the discussions on a few and important disarmament and arms control issues.

4. The nuclear issues should, in the view of the Norwegian Government, receive priority attention at the session. The special responsibility of the two major nuclear Powers should in this context be emphasized. At the same time support should be given to the bilateral negotiations aimed at deep reductions of nuclear weapons. Other nuclear issues to be considered at the session as a matter of priority, should include a comprehensive test ban and the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime. It is also recommended that the session should take stock of the progress made during the last few years at the Conference on Disarmament on a chemical weapons convention.

5. The third special session would also, in the view of the Norwegian Government, represent an opportunity to widen the consensus on other important multilateral disarmament questions. These issues should include the prevention of an arms race in outer space, conventional disarmament and confidence-building measures. The question of verification should be underlined as an essential element in negotiations on all disarmament and arms control agreements.

6. It is also assumed that the special session would need to evaluate the outcome of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

7. As concerns the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, a thorough review should be undertaken by the special session. In this connection it is important that the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament by four States be implemented at the third special session.

SPAIN

1. Spain attaches great importance to the convening in the near future of the third special session devoted to disarmament, which will provide an opportunity to review the basic questions currently facing the international community in the field of disarmament.

2. Spain firmly believes that only if all nations approach these issues in a spirit of co-operation and trust will it be possible to make constructive progress in the consideration of the various items on the agenda of the third special session devoted to disarmament. In this connection, the lessons learned from the first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament must be carefully studied. Thus, whereas the first session adopted a "final" document which, because of its seminal importance, Spain and many other countries single out from the various other documents on disarmament, the second session, with its highly unsatisfactory outcome, demonstrated that a session based on confrontation and statements devoid of substance and realism can neither promote progress on the issues in question nor improve the international climate in their regard.
3. Indubitably, there has been an improvement in the international situation in recent months with respect to several sectoral and regional aspects of disarmament and arms control, as evidenced by the recent proposals made by the two major nuclear Powers on INFs and START or the results achieved at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. At the same time, Spain cannot but be aware that the situation in other regions of the world and other armament sectors has deteriorated since the second special session: cases in point are the alarming use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq conflict, the interminable struggle in the Middle East and the new trouble spots which have emerged in Africa and Asia.

4. At the third special session devoted to disarmament, Spain will advocate some future-oriented work in areas where there is the most likelihood of achieving results.

5. In this connection Spain considers that the agenda for the third special session should include, as a minimum, the following items:

1. A general debate devoted to an assessment of the current situation in the light of the latest developments and of prospects in the disarmament field;

2. Nuclear disarmament and related questions;

3. Conventional disarmament;

4. Bacteriological and chemical weapons, especially a review of the work of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on the drafting of a treaty on the total prohibition of chemical weapons;

5. Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

6. Verification of disarmament agreements;

7. Confidence-building measures and their effect on the disarmament process;

8. Transparency and objective information regarding disarmament issues, including the reduction of military budgets;

9. Analysis and strengthening of the role played by the United Nations and its dependent bodies in disarmament;

10. Consideration and adoption, as appropriate, of a series of realistic proposals and recommendations aimed at achieving concrete objectives in the area of arms control and disarmament.