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

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1. The Government of Portugal welcomes General Assembly resolution 41/60 G, adopted by consensus, by which the Assembly decided to begin the preparatory work for its third special session devoted to disarmament.

2. Portugal wishes to stress that it shares the view that the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament reflects the international community's aspiration for a broad and appropriate forum where all nations, big and small, will be called to tackle with the global and paramount issues of arms control and disarmament.

3. Portugal also shares the opinion that the right path for the adoption of a step-by-step approach to seeking the best solutions for the complex issues involved in the arms control and disarmament process rests unquestionably in a thorough assessment of current realities. That assessment is, in our view, an indispensable prerequisite so that the work of the third special session may progress in a concrete and realistic manner, namely by concentrating its efforts upon carefully selected items deemed most likely to obtain a consensus.

4. Among those subjects, Portugal would welcome the inclusion of some of them in the special session's agenda, such as the problems posed by conventional armaments and chemical weapons, the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements, the transparency of military budgets, as well as the question of strengthening the United Nation's role in the field of disarmament. As for the nuclear area - a traditional major point of debate - special attention and encouragement should be given to the progress achieved at the bilateral talks held by the United States and the Soviet Union at Geneva, while, at the same time, emphasis should be put on other related matters, such as the need of undiminished security and adequate verification.

5. Based upon the success of the first special session and the encouraging atmosphere of dialogue which prevails nowadays between East and West, Portugal is confident that the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will prove itself as a realistic, flexible and constructive forum for the discussion of all aspects of arms control and disarmament, thus enhancing the international community's aspiration for strengthened international security.