The Group of 15, which has for some time been concerned with the question of organization and procedures of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, is convinced that the CCD should be the subject of such changes as to increase its effectiveness and to create the necessary conditions for the participation in its work of all nuclear-weapon States.

To this effect, the Group believes - without prejudice to any decision which the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament may adopt - that the following modifications deserve the highest priority:

1. Strengthening of the existing link between the General Assembly and the CCD. For this purpose it is necessary that:

   (a) All Member States of the United Nations may submit directly proposals on measures of disarmament that are the subject of negotiations in the CCD and participate in its proceedings as well as in those of the working bodies in which such a proposal or proposals are examined;

   (b) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Centre for Disarmament of the United Nations should be assigned an appropriate enhanced role in the CCD.

2. Replacement of the system of co-chairmanship by a system to be agreed upon.

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Among the various suggestions made in this respect, it is worthwhile recalling for illustrative purposes the following:

(a) The CCD should be presided by a chairman on the basis of monthly rotation (CCD/550);

(b) Monthly rotation between all non-nuclear-weapon States members of the CCD (CCD/PV.762 and CCD/561);

(c) The present co-chairmanship institution should be replaced by a bureau of four members, consisting of one chairman and three vice-chairman. Two members of the bureau should be selected from the States belonging to the military blocs and the other two from the group of neutral and non-aligned States in the CCD. The chairmanship should rotate in alphabetical order on a monthly or sessional basis between all members of the CCD (CCD/554).

3. Adoption by the CCD of its own rules of procedure.

4. Examination of relevant procedures to improve the effectiveness of the CCD including inter alia the establishment of a standing sub-committee of the whole as envisaged in document CCD/530.

5. The plenary meetings of the CCD should be public.