Some fundamental principles and norms for possible inclusion in the "Declaration on Disarmament" envisaged in the draft agenda of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, approved by the Preparatory Committee on 18 May 1977.

Mexico: working paper

- All the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations.

- General and complete disarmament under effective international control should be the final objective of mankind.

- Gradual progress towards this objective requires the conclusion of partial agreements and authentic measures for disarmament.

- The progressive reduction of nuclear weapons until their total elimination has been achieved should have the highest priority among such measures.

- The reduction and elimination of the other weapons of mass destruction deserve also a high priority.

- The development, production and stockpiling of napalm and other incendiary weapons must be prohibited, and those existing in the arsenals of all States should be destroyed.

- The international transfer of conventional weapons should be limited and regulated.
- International verification constitutes an indispensable part for many of the disarmament measures. The use of a combination of various methods of verification offers the best guarantee.

- The adoption of the disarmament measures should take place in a balanced manner so as not to endanger the security of any State.

- The creation of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace constitutes one of the most effective disarmament measures within the reach of those States which do not possess nuclear weapons.

- Nuclear-weapon States must fulfil faithfully the obligations which, in accordance with the definition approved by the General Assembly, they have with regard to the nuclear-free zones and the States included in such zones.

- The reduction of the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council and other militarily important States would constitute a laudable measure of disarmament.

- There is a close relationship between disarmament and international peace and security, on the one hand, and disarmament and development on the other. Nevertheless, progress in one of those spheres must not be subordinated to progress in the other or vice versa.

- The growing arms race and the resultant waste of resources are incompatible with the decisions of the United Nations aimed at the consolidation of a New International Economic Order based on justice and equity.

- A considerable part of the resources freed by the adoption of disarmament measures should be devoted mainly to the promotion of the economic and social development of the developing countries.

- It is necessary to have an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations for nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States.

- The proliferation of nuclear weapons could endanger the security of all States and would make it even more difficult to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

- Access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes constitutes an inalienable right of all States which is subject only to the limitations derived from the relevant provisions incorporated in multilateral instruments designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

- Conditions should be established for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes which contribute to the elimination of the gap separating the developed from the developing countries.

- In accordance with its Charter and innumerable resolutions of the General Assembly, the United Nations has a primary role and responsibility in the sphere of disarmament.
The former requires that the General Assembly be kept duly informed regarding all steps taken in the sphere of disarmament, whether unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral.

The deliberative machinery of the United Nations should be reinforced through the institutionalization of a world disarmament conference on terms acceptable for all Member States.

The organization and procedures of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be subject to the modifications deemed appropriate for the participation by China and France in its work.

World public opinion should receive adequate information on the progress of work on disarmament, so that it may exercise its influence for the reintensification of efforts aimed at obtaining positive results in this field.

Non-governmental organizations recognized by the United Nations should have at their disposal all the documentation necessary for them to carry out their complementary work effectively.