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

Negotiating machinery for disarmament problems

Romania: working paper

Governments have not yet applied to the problems of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, the resolute and decisive measures which could bring about the reduction and elimination of arms and protect mankind from the danger of a new war.

While the treaties and conventions concluded in recent years have made some contribution to creating a climate of understanding, they have not proved capable of curbing the arms race or ensuring the implementation of effective disarmament measures and they do not deal with the basic aspects of the armaments problem, notably nuclear weapons.

The existing negotiating machinery, including the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, in spite of all the efforts made and the suggestions and proposals advanced, has failed to produce tangible results in the field of disarmament commensurate with the demands of peoples and the security requirements of the countries of the world.

Since the consideration of the problems of disarmament as a whole is related to the national security of all States and to international security in general, the starting-point must be the participation of all States in the negotiations on the basis of full equality in accordance with the principles and actions called for in the declaration and programme of measures to be adopted by the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

An essential prerequisite for the proper organization of negotiations on disarmament and for the adoption of effective measures relating to the basic problems of disarmament is the concentration of such negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. The United Nations will be able to fulfil the historic mission for which it was created if it succeeds in bringing about the cessation of the arms race and in implementing concrete measures in the field of disarmament. The strengthening of the role of the United Nations in this field requires the
direct exercise by the General Assembly of its competence with respect to negotiation and the preparation and monitoring of the implementation of disarmament measures. The General Assembly should organize in-depth discussions on the arms situation, based on the principles which must govern disarmament.

The General Assembly, as the main body concerned with political decisions, the basic forum which examines all of the problems of disarmament in its regular sessions or in special sessions, should discuss the situation of disarmament negotiations either in terms of specific topics or as a whole, adopt decisions, resolutions and recommendations on this question, and decide on the establishment of negotiating forums, co-ordinate their activity and receive reports from them on the status and results of negotiations. The General Assembly will examine the draft treaties prepared in different negotiating forums, put them into final form and recommend them to States for signature.

Accordingly, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly should concern itself exclusively with the problems of disarmament and security.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission should resume its activity and proceed to an examination of the entire range of disarmament problems and the development of efforts undertaken in this field.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission, comprising all the Members of the Organization, will be able to concentrate all disarmament negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. It will be able to negotiate the disarmament problems entrusted to it by the General Assembly and exercise supervisory functions with respect to the implementation of international agreements in the field of disarmament.

Disarmament negotiations, under the firm direction and control of the United Nations and carried out in bodies with clearly defined agendas and priorities, should be compartmentalized in various categories of activity, such as the consideration of all problems relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and the conclusion of agreements on the prohibition, reduction and elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction; the negotiation of measures to reduce armed forces and conventional weapons at the world and regional levels; discussion of the problem of the freezing and gradual reduction by stages of the military budgets of States; the adoption of collateral measures of military disengagement and disarmament.

Within this framework a decision can also be adopted concerning the convening of a World Disarmament Conference with the participation of all States and all nuclear-weapon Powers.