The Government of Venezuela considers that peace and security in the world can be ensured only through general and complete disarmament under strict international control. Firmly convinced of the pressing need to achieve this objective, Venezuela has repeatedly expressed its concern at the growing arms race and at the increased production of new and sophisticated weapons; at the vertical and horizontal, qualitative and quantitative spread of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race; at the human and financial resources it involves, which are increasingly devoted to the arms build-up instead of being used for the progress of mankind and for the economic and social development of the developing countries; at the deadlock in the disarmament negotiations, particularly those between countries possessing nuclear weapons.

With regard to these questions, the President of Venezuela, Carlos Andrés Pérez, stated the following at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly:

"We doubt the usefulness and efficacy of the steps being taken in the field of nuclear disarmament. My country views with growing concern the trend towards the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the diversion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy towards aggressive ends. As long as there are nations that arrogate to themselves the right to manufacture and possess nuclear weapons, will there ever be a moral authority that could help prevent the use of atomic energy in warfare? Will not the difference between a peaceful atom and a war atom become a myth? Only a supranational body of legislation conferring ample and sufficient powers on the United Nations can become an effective means of controlling this threat to life on earth. Present limitations are ineffective because they are based on calculations not precisely dictated by international sincerity."

Venezuela co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 31/189 B because it feels that a session of the General Assembly devoted exclusively to disarmament would not only reflect the international community's deep concern at the arms race but
might also help to spur on the disarmament negotiations. One of the main items of the special session should be the convening of a World Disarmament Conference, the importance of and need for which have been recognized by the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations.

The special session should consider as a matter of high priority the following measures, among others:

(a) Prohibition of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons;
(b) Prohibition of the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons;
(c) Prohibition of the use of weapons of mass destruction and of the development of new types of such weapons;
(d) Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and of zones of peace;
(e) Obligation to respect the nuclear-weapon-free zones;
(f) Utilization of oceans exclusively for peaceful purposes;
(g) Consideration of the problem of intercountry agreements that may permit diversion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
(h) Cessation of all nuclear weapons tests;
(i) Appeal to countries that have not yet acceded to the non-proliferation Treaty and to other existing treaties in the field of disarmament, to do so;
(j) Reduction and control of the international traffic in conventional weapons;
(k) Reduction of military budgets.

As the matters to be considered at the special session concern the very survival of mankind and as there is widespread ignorance of the dangers of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, one of the objectives of the Assembly should be to adopt measures that will enable world public opinion to play a more effective role in disarmament efforts. This can be achieved by means of a vast public information campaign designed to create international awareness of the grave risks and economic and social consequences of the arms build-up. In that connexion the following might be envisaged: the United Nations public information services might give priority to the distribution of material on the destructive potential of nuclear weapons and on the disarmament negotiations; in this connexion, the United Nations Information Centres might intensify the dissemination of such material; more systematic co-ordination between the newly-created United Nations Centre for Disarmament and the non-governmental organizations concerned with the subject so as to increase the volume and distribution of such material.

The special session should be widely publicized and the non-governmental organizations devoted to disarmament should participate in the session in an appropriate manner.